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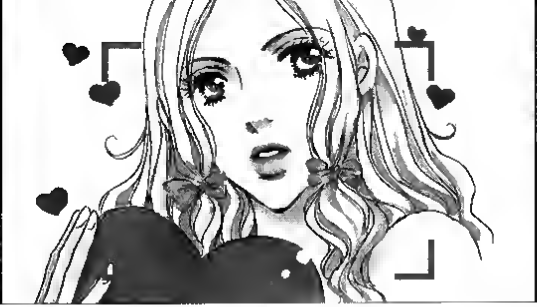
Kazumi Ooya

愛をちょ～だい！

AI WO CHODAI!

4



Ai wo Chodai!

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STORY & CHARACTERS

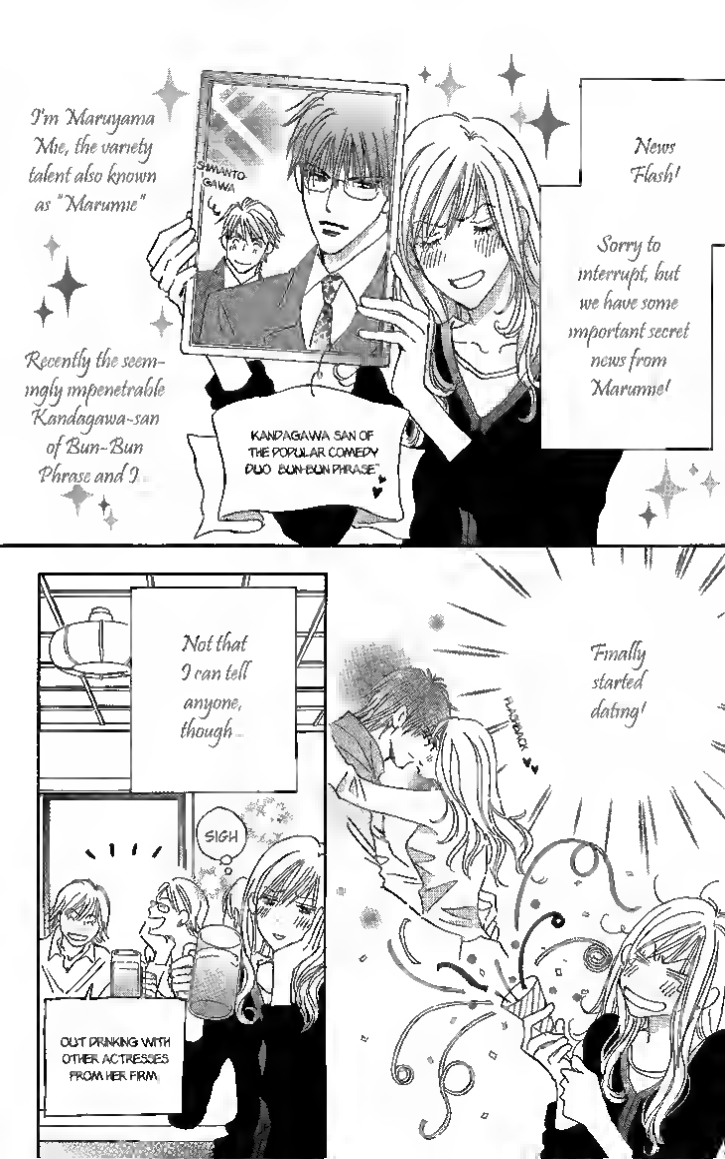
Maruyama Me, known as Marumie, is a variety talent busy with television and magazine jobs. She is also in a complicated relationship with Kandagawa-san, of the popular young comedy duo "Bun-Bun Phrase". Marumie continues to find herself surrounded by attractive men, including her young boss and her childhood friend who is now a model, and both her job and her love life are progressing at a heady pace! Is her relationship with Kandagawa-san finally going somewhere?

Maruyama Me: A variety talent who hopes to become an actress

Kandagawa: A popular comedian known for his deadpan attitude

Vol.13

THE 8TH MAN


I'm Maruyama Mie, the variety talent also known as "Marumie"
SHIGANTO-GAWA
KANDAGAWA SAN OF THE POPULAR COMEDY DUO "BUN-BUN PHRASE"
Recently the seemingly impenetrable Kandagawa-san of Bun-Bun Phrase and I...
News Flash!
Sorry to interrupt, but we have some important secret news from Marumie!
FLASHBACK
Finally started dating!
Not that I can tell anyone, though...
SIGH
OUT DRINKING WITH OTHER ACTRESSES FROM HER FIRM.

Woohoo
YEP.
I'VE ALSO GOTTEN MY FIRST COMMERCIAL GIG!
WAY TO GO, LET'S TOAST!
CHEERS!
I HEARD YOU MIGHT GET A JOB DOING A COMMERCIAL FOR OOMORI DRUG HOW'D THAT HAPPEN?
BY THE WAY, MARIMIE,
OH
AH, SAIKO-NEE,♡
YOU FINALLY GOT HERE!
HMM? WHAT'S THE NEWS?
HEY EVERYONE!
I HAVE SOME BIG NEWS!
Things have been going so well for me, I'm worried it might be a trap...
Clatter
14

Grab
IN THIS WEEK'S TABLOIDS,
THERE'S *ANOTHER* REPORT ABOUT MARUMIE'S WHIRLWIND LOVE LIFE!
TCH
I JUST HEARD AT THE OFFICE .
OOH, WHO'S THE LUCKY GUY?
WHO, WHO?
Huhhh?
ABOUT ME?!
Ba-Dump
HMPH
HE'S A BIG SHOT-
ANOTHER YOUNG COMEDY STAR!
WHAA?

IT SEEMS TO BE BUN-BUN PHRASE'S...
Eeek!
SHIMANTO-GAWA-SAN!
HUH?

YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG
WHA?
I MEAN TOTALLY WRONG...

Squeeee
ALLL OF THE DETAILS FROM HER, GUYS!
LET'S GET

HOW DID YOU
MANAGE TO GET YOUR PHOTO TAKEN WITH HER?
SO
IT WAS THAT NIGHT, MOST LIKELY
Whoa!
One more bar!
CLICK
YEAH
THE OTHER NIGHT, SOME OF US WENT OUT FOR DRINKS..
SHE'S REALLY FUN, SO I ASKED HER TO JOIN US

I'M NOT JEALOUS,
WHY AM I...?
JUST SURPRISED
Slap
WHAT'S THAT LOOK FOR?
COULD YOU BE... JEALOUS?
WE'RE JUST DRINKING BUDDIES!
Eightbolb
GRIN
GR-AB
HER *REAL* BOYFRIEND HAS TO BE CAREFUL!
THAT I WAS THE ONE SHE WAS PHOTOGRAPHED WITH?
HEY, HEY ISN'T IT A GOOD THING—
SHE TELLS YOU *EVERYTHING*, DOESN'T SHE?
THAT IDIOT!

Sigh~~~
Shuuji-
CAN YOU GET ME A BEER?
YEAH.
IT WAS REALLY THAT ROUGH AT WORK
JUST BECAUSE OF THAT TABLOID ARTICLE?
IT WAS AWFUL.
CHILDHOOD FRIEND LIVING IN THE SAME APARTMENT BUILDING ON A LOWER FLOOR, HATTA SHUUJI

HEY, MIE-CHAN
HAVE YOU BEEN AVOIDING KANDAGAWA-SAN'S ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT YOU?
I JUST TALKED TO HIM, AND HE SAID HE WAS COMING HERE,
BUT HASN'T HE BEEN GOING TO YOUR PLACE?
BEEP!
MIE-CHAN!
KANDAGAWA-SAN'S BOUND TO BE MAD AT ME
SINCE I'VE BEEN CAUSING A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR BUN-BUN PHRASE LATELY
HE'LL BE EVEN ANGRIER THAN THE PEOPLE AT WORK!
DON'T TELL HIM I WAS HERE
TELL HIM I HAVEN'T COME HOME YET!

clatter clatter
Ahhh...
SORRY, MIE-CHAN RAN AWAY.
IT'S OK,
I'M SORRY FOR STOPPING BY ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
C'MON, IT'S BEEN A WHILE LET'S HAVE A DRINK!
BUT, HONESTLY,
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE SHIMANTOGAWA?
THEY DO SEEM TO GET ALONG WELL, DON'T THEY?

UHH...
Glare
TWITCH
Heh
KANDAGA WA-S!N,
YOU'RE RE..LLY QUITE JE/AL-
BUT...
YES, THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
HM?
WHY?
WASN'T SHE THE SPORTS-OBSESSED TOMBOY TYPE?
YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE LIKED SEEING MIE-CHAN WHEN SHE WAS A KID

MIE-CHAN—
SHE WAS REALLY POPULAR!
SHE WAS SO STYLISH AND CUTE—
EVEN THOUGH HER PERSONALITY WAS TOTALLY LIKE A GUY'S.
IT WAS PROBABLY LUCKY THAT SHE NEVER REALIZED IT, BUT—
BOYS WERE CONSTANTLY FALLING IN LOVE WITH HER.
ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL JUDO ERA
HIGH SCHOOL ALL AROUND SPORTS STAR ATTRACTIVE (ONLY IN APPEARANCE) ERA

WHO?
UH, IT'S NOTHING.
ANCIENT HISTORY.
SINCE I WAS HER CHILDHOOD FRIEND, WE WERE USUALLY TOGETHER.
BUT I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID SOMEONE WOULD STEAL HER AWAY.
SIGH
I'll go get some more ice.
ESPECIALLY THAT JUDO CLASSMATE SHE WAS ALWAYS WITH.
Worry
Worry
...

WELL,
AT LEAST I'VE LEARNED QUITE A BIT ABOUT HER
WELL, IT IS SHUUJI SAYING THIS.
Mie-chan
TCH
GULP
GULP
HEH
(UFF)
(UFF)
She was really that popular...
...
?;x
GEEZ,
THAT IDIOT'S JUST TESTING MY RE-ACTION.

I AM THE ADVERTISING MANAGER OF OOMORI DRUG, YAMASHITA.
MARUYAMA-SAN IS VERY ENERGETIC,
WHICH WE THOUGH WOULD BE A PERFECT MATCH FOR OUR PRODUCT
Today, we're meeting with the company who ordered the commercial
YES!
NICE TO MEET YOU
I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL,
SO PLEASE WORK WITH ME!
HELLO,
I'M YANAGI FROM THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA DIVISION

AH!
FROM THE AD DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT,
RIGHT?
NICE TO MEET YOU I'M YANAGI
Ya-Ya-nashin!?
SMILE

Yanashin: Shinichi Yanagi
YANA-
YANA?
HEY, MIE! DON'T BE RUDE!
YANAGI-SAN IS THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA DIVISION'S YOUNG HITMAKER!
I'LL DEFINITELY REACH BLACK BELT FIRST, BOY-GIRL!
LIKE I'D LOSE TO YOU!
Hahaha
SHAKE
SHAKE
HP Electronic Media
2nd Division
Shinichi Yanagi
IT'S
IT'S REALLY HIM
My biggest rival, from back when I was in judo

Yanashin has become a big advertising firm's hit-maker?!
WELL, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.
FILMING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY,
SO WE'LL SEE YOU THEN.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US.
UMM...
NO, NEVER-MIND.
NANANA
Click...

SHUFFLE
MARUYAMA-SAN.
SHUFFLE
HUH?
Squeeze
Whisper
Squeeeeeeze
I ALSO WANTED TO WORK WITH YOU FOR MORE... PERSONAL REASONS.
I'M QUITE HAPPY ABOUT IT.
HMPH
I HOPE EVERYTHING WORKS OUT
LET'S TALK AFTER WORK IS OVER,
MARUMIE.

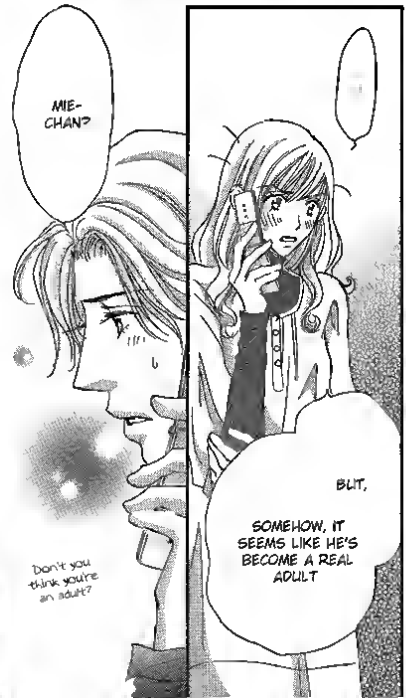
ISN'T THAT THE RUMORED YANAGI-SAN?
WOW, CONFIDENT MEN ARE REALLY SEXY, AREN'T THEY?
LATER.
WHA-?
Thump
Thump
UGH THE "RUMORED YANAGI-SAN"? BAHH?
BUZZ
Shock
Beep
HELLO, SHUUJI?
Hey, Mie-chan, about Kanda-
HEY, LISTEN TO ME
BUZZ
IT'S SHUUJI!

YES!
HE'S AS COCKY AND ANNOYING AS EVER!

AT WORK
WHAT???
YOU SAW YANASHIN?!

BY THE WAY...
YANASHIN, PROBABLY, A LONG TIME AGO, TOWARD YOU...

MMM, NEVER MIND
Huh? What?


MIE-CHAN?
Don't you think you're an adult?
BUT, SOMEHOW, IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S BECOME A REAL ADULT

Huh?
But, Mie-
SORRY, SHUUJI, I'LL TALK WITH YOU LATER!
Beep
Yanashin
He was the first person to call me "Marume"
Honestly, he was probably my first crush
Beep
Beep
Beep
Kandagawa-san...
...
I was too strong-willed as a kid, so all we did was fight, but. .

I'm sorry I want to meet with you
—Marume—
I want to see him.
New Message
To Kandagawa
Sub It's Mie
I'm sorry I want to meet with you
Even if he's mad at me, I need to apologize
I really want to see him right now
Beep
Sending

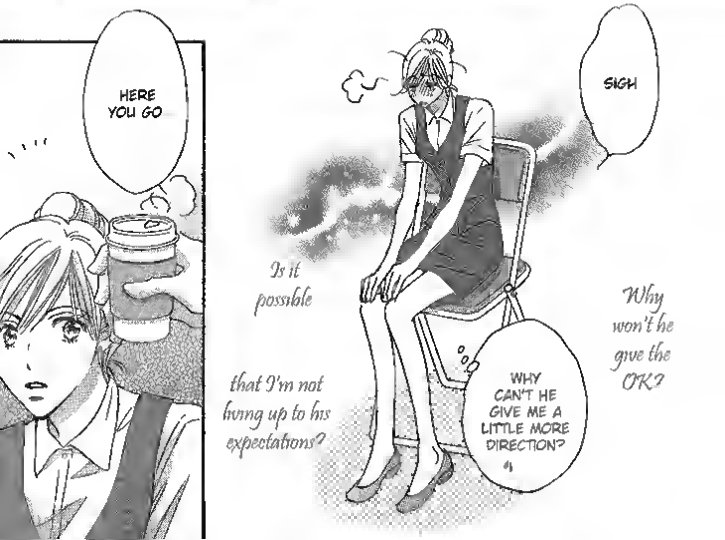
C'MON, C'MON.
MMM.
YEAH.
HEY! KANDAGAWA!
IT'S TIME!

IN A PANIC ABOUT SPECIALS SEASON
Grab
CLICK
OK, OK
HEY,
THERE'S NO TIME TO MEET UP WITH YOUR GIRL, SO BUCK UP!
AND EVERY DAY, AFTER FILMING'S OVER, WE'LL HAVE MEETINGS ALL AFTERNOON.
WE STILL HAVE FOUR REGULAR PROGRAMS, PLUS THREE SPECIALS TO FILM,
YOU CAN'T JUST SIT HERE BY YOURSELF AND BE HEALED BY LOVE!

Boss
There's no way I'll lose!
Yes!
Yes!
GIRL POWER, ACTIVATE!
OK!
Squeeeze
Let's get my energy recharged!
GIRL POWER, Activate!

CUT!
Silence
GIRL POWER DRINK, "P"!
WELL...
UM, YES!
Of course!
BUT THE DIRECTOR IS SCARY!
I NEED A BREAK...
ARGHHH. THIS'LL BE THE 17TH TAKE
IT NEEDS A LITTLE MORE WORK
LET'S TRY ONCE MORE. ARE YOU OK, MIE-CHAN?

Yanashun
YANAGI-KUN, YOU'RE RIGHT.
PHEW
DIRECTOR!
COULD WE FIT IN A LITTLE BREAK?
WE CAN GET A FRESH START AFTERWARD.


HERE YOU GO
SIGH
Is it possible that I'm not living up to his expectations?
WHY CAN'T HE GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE DIRECTION?
Why won't he give the OK?

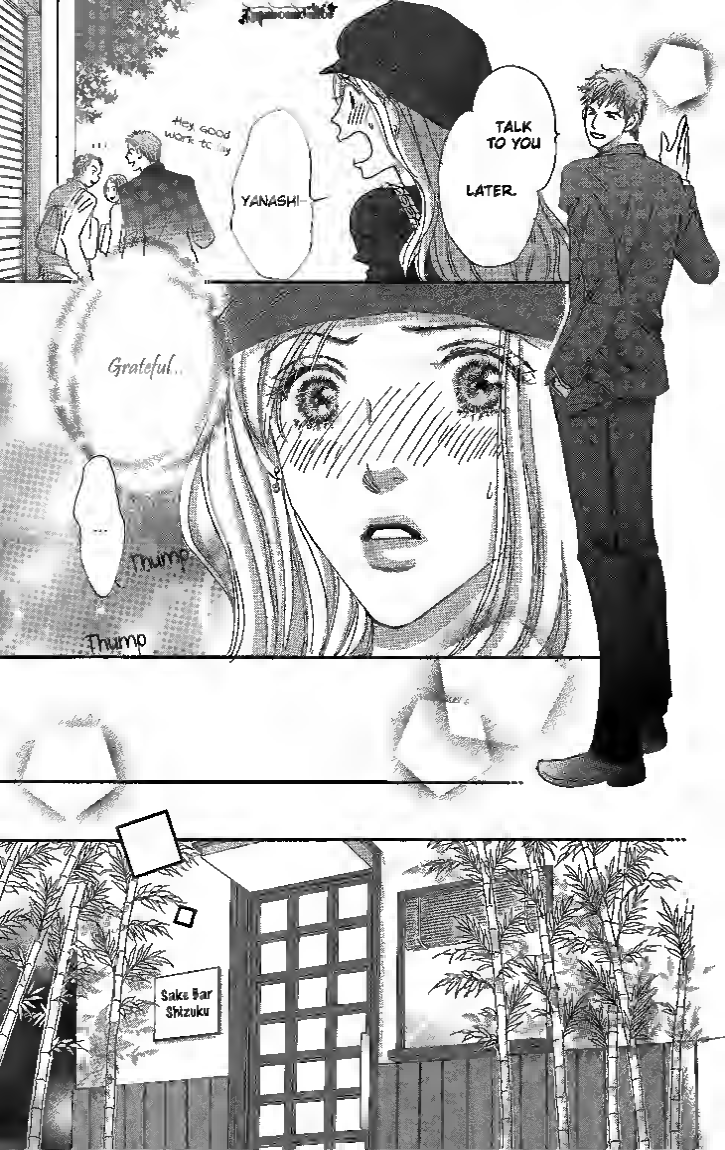
Oh
Thanks
Here
That director is really difficult.
If things don't go exactly the way he pictures it, he won't give the OK.
Don't worry about it.
The sponsor is really happy
You match the image of the product perfectly.
Just keep being yourself
Drink that and get your energy back

MMM,
TASTY
GULP
YES?
EXCUSE ME, YANAGI-S.IN!
CUT!
Wooo
THAT'S A WRAP!

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
GOOD JOB, MARUYAMA MIE!
YOUR SUGGESTIONS ARE SPOT-ON AS ALWAYS, YANAGI-KUN.
YEAH...
CLAP
CLAP
Sigh~~~
...
He's probably still mad at me
About that tabloid article
After all that,
I still haven't gotten a response from him
THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK, MIE.
I'LL BRING THE CAR AROUND, SO JUST WAIT AT THE GATE
OK

Grab
HEY, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING
HUH?
GIVE ME YOUR CELL!
A PROMISE?
DON'T WE HAVE A PROMISE FOR A DATE TO CATCH UP?
DON'T GO PUTTING WORDS IN MY MOUTH!!
YA-
YANA-SHIN?!

HEY!
HEY!
OK!
SENDING CONTACT INFO!
Grab
HEY!
ALL DONE!♡
THANKS!
TODAY,
YOU WORKED HARD AND DID A GOOD JOB.
BECAUSE OF YOU, IT'LL BE A GOOD COMMERCIAL I'M REALLY GRATEFUL.
WHAT THE ?


Hey, good work today
YANASHI
TALK TO YOU LATER.
Grateful...
...
Thump
Thump
Sake Bar Shizuku

HEY, HEY
WHY ARE YOU SO GRUMPY?
IT'S OUR REUNION, ISN'T IT?
I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN REMINISCING WITH YOU
I ONLY CAME BECAUSE I HEARD THE SAKE WAS GOOD
What should I do? I never thanked him when we were filming
I really just meant to come and tell him thanks

WHAT?
STARE
SO ANYWAY,
IS IT THE REAL THING?
THOSE RUMORS ABOUT YOU WITH THAT GUY, ARE THEY TRUE?
I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO GROW UP INTO A SMART-ALECKY GOOD GIRL WHO KNEW HER LIQUOR...
BUZZ BUZZ
AH AHA
NO WAY...
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ANOTHER GUY...
WHAA?

Kandaga-wa-san?
Incoming call: Kandagawa
BUZZ
Beep
YES?
Ohhh
I'M SORRY!!
CLATTER
SORRY, I'VE GOT TO TAKE THIS
CLICK CLICK

NO,
IT'S MY FAULT.
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN A CHANCE TO CALL YOU BACK
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY THAT
HUHP
Ba-dump
I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO PROPERLY APOLOGIZE, SO...
FORGIVE ME...
Ba-dump
He's not angry? He sounds so nice.
Kandaga-wa-san
Ba-dump

UHHH, UMMM
NOW? I'M HAVING A WRAP PARTY WITH A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COMMERCIAL COMPANY
Thump
Thump
DO YOU HAVE TIME
KA-THUMP
TO MEET RIGHT NOW?
Geez, what's with me?
UGH
Out drinking with another guy at a time like this...
AHHH.

Well, whatever.
I'll talk to you some other time.
We have a location shoot tomorrow, so—
But, there's something I want him to say to me
Ummm,
Is tomorrow no good?
Bye
Wha, wait?
What do you mean by "whatever"?
You called me after such a long time
And that's all you've got to say?
I'm not the one who's making excuses for today!
Annoyed

C'MON, WHO'S THE ONE YELLING HERE?!
HEY!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS SNAP AT ME LIKE THAT?
THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN ME AND SHIMONTAGAWA-SAN!
HUH?
WELL DUH!
LIKE I'D LET THAT HAPPEN!
UH

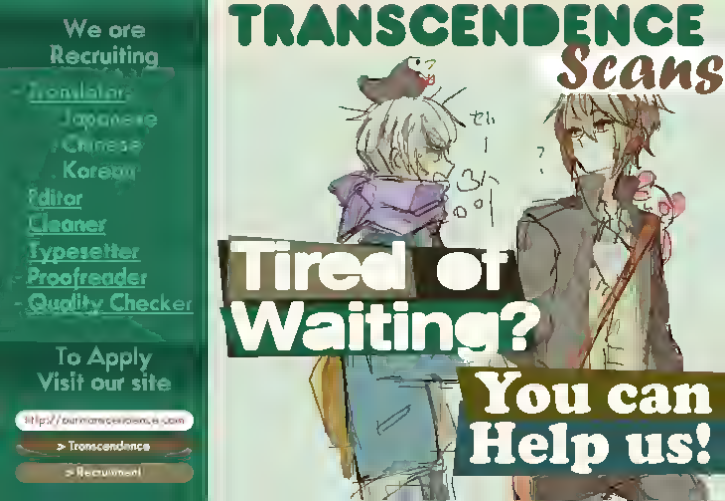
I'll call you, I promise
I'M NOT ANGRY ANY MORE
ANYWAY...
WAS THAT HIM?
YOU WERE REALLY GOING AT IT
Click
Beep...

SORRY, I'VE GOT TO GO-
Bang
HEY,
I KNOW IT'S OUT OF NOWHERE,
BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?
THAT LOOK OF YOURS,
IT'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS

HMPH
AUGH!
What the hell?
YOU'VE GOTTEN QUITE COCKY YOURSELF, HAVEN'T YOU?
IDIOT
BUT A GIRL'S GOT TO MAKE HER OWN CHOICES
REGARDLESS, THANKS!
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU, YANASHIN.

WOW
SIGH
I REALLY DO WANT THAT GIRL
BUZZ
BUZZ
WHERE CAN WE MEET UP?
I REALLY DO WANT TO SEE YOU RIGHT NOW
UMM,
Yes?

WHERE ARE YOU
RIGHT NOW?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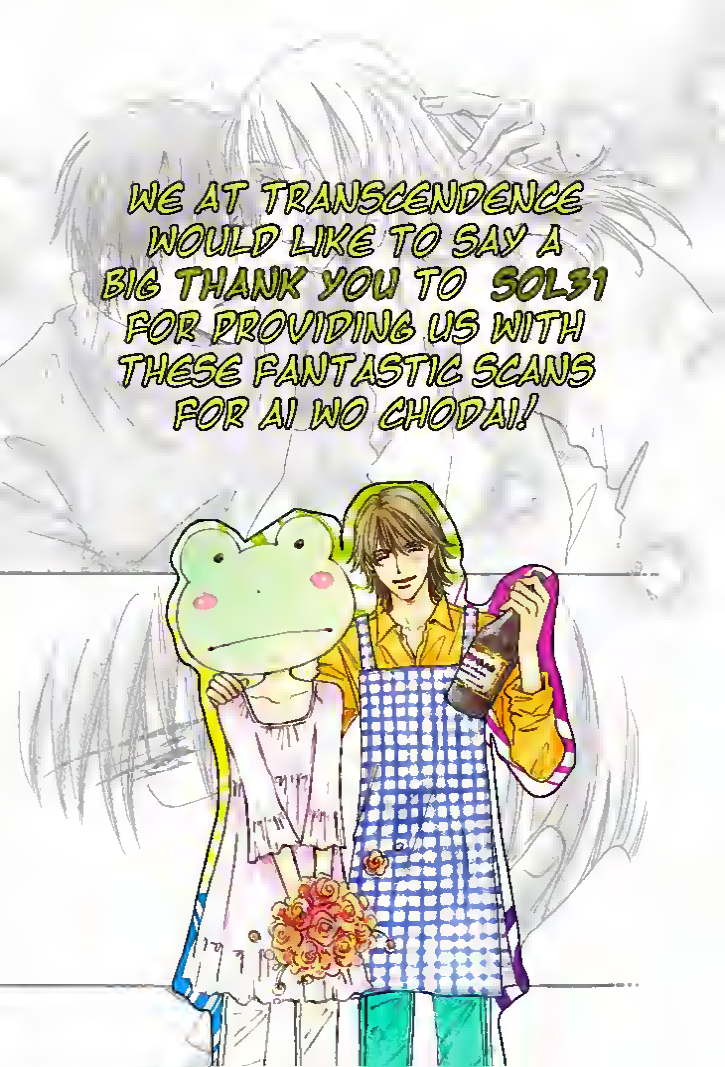

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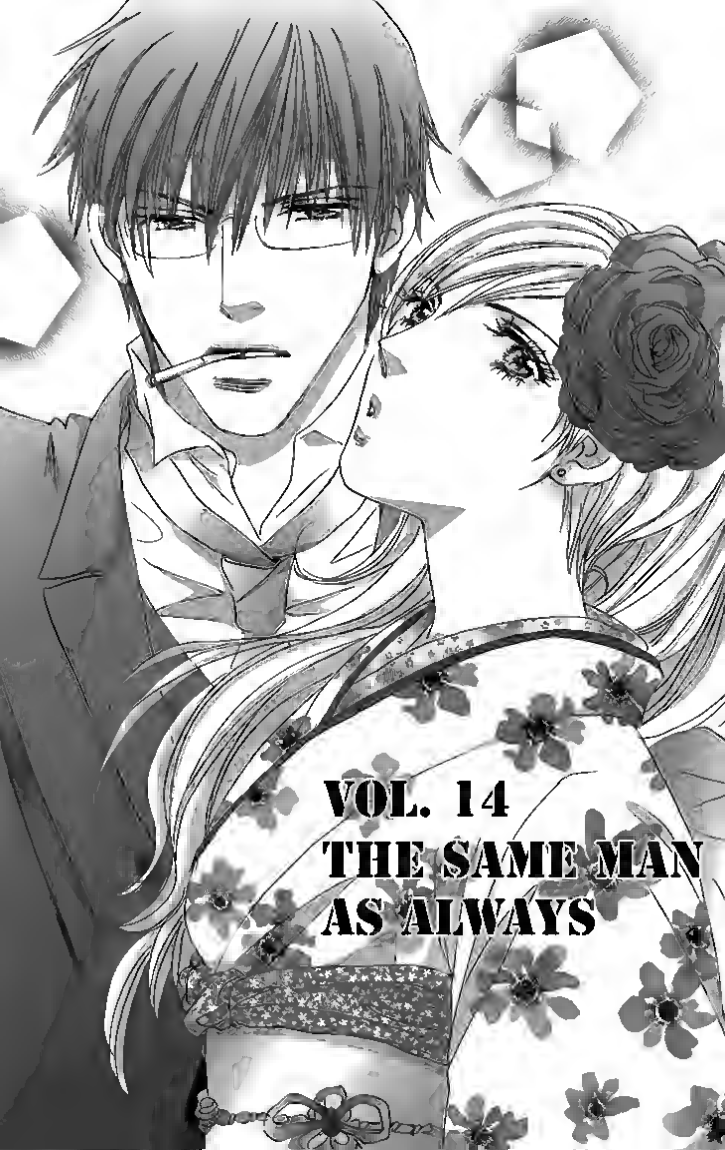
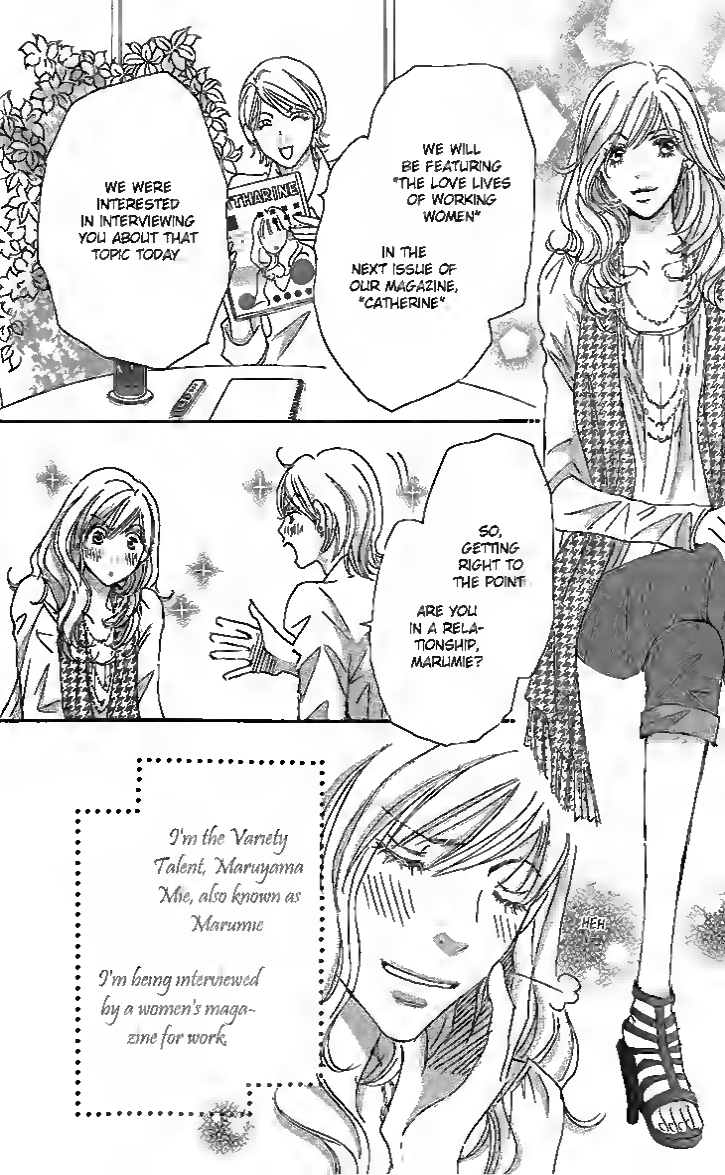
Thanks for reading!
~desu

Ai wo Chodai!

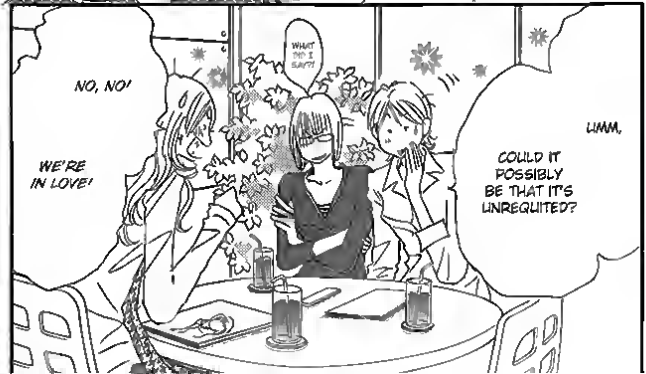


VOL. 14
THE SAME MAN AS ALWAYS


WE WERE INTERESTED IN INTERVIEWING YOU ABOUT THAT TOPIC TODAY
CATHARINE
WE WILL BE FEATURING "THE LOVE LIVES OF WORKING WOMEN"
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF OUR MAGAZINE, "CATHERINE".
SO, GETTING RIGHT TO THE POINT
ARE YOU IN A RELATIONSHIP, MARUMIE?
I'm the Variety Talent, Maruyama Mie, also known as Marumie
I'm being interviewed by a women's magazine for work.
HER

WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE?
MANAGER
OF COURSE!
WELL,
HE'S KIND OF ANNOYING, AND COMPLICATED, AND SOMEWHAT STRANGE.
...Even though we've been fighting a lot, you could say we've started dating recently
He's Kandagawa-san, one of the young popular comedy duo called "Bun Bun Phrase."

SUCH AS ABOUT HER IDEAL MAN OR WHAT SHE LOOKS FOR IN A RELATIONSHIP, NOT HER ACTUAL RELATIONSHIP SITUATION
EXCUSE ME, BUT I WOULD PREFER YOU ASK HER MORE GENERAL QUESTIONS,
OH, UM, OF COURSE
Blame the company
TSK TSK
WE CAN'T REALLY GET TOGETHER ALL THAT OFTEN;
AND HE RARELY EVEN CALLS OR SENDS A MESSAGE
HE'S REALLY BUSY,
Sigh
EVEN SO...


WHAT DO I DO?!
NO, NO!
WE'RE IN LOVE!
UMM,
COULD IT POSSIBLY BE THAT IT'S UNREQUITED?

Now that I think about it,
he's never told me that he loves me or anything
SIP SIP SIP
Slump
AT LEAST I THINK SO
PROB-ABLY
UMM, UHH.
OH RIGHT.
I HEARD THAT YOU MIGHT BE MAKING A BOOK OUT OF YOUR
THEN THE NEXT QUES-TION
FLIP
LET'S DISCOVER MORE ABOUT HIS TAL-ENTS THROUGH HIS FIRST DRAMA ROLE
This Month's Hot Man
Bun Bun Phrase's
Kandagawa
OH?
This Month's Hot Man
Bun Bun Phrase's
Kandagawa

HEY BOSS, LET'S GO.
WHAT-EVER.
That's right...
OOOH!
KATHARINE
HE'S SHOWING OFF!
The main character is the super popular actress, Tamhara Mie
Kandagawa-san has a part in a popular ongoing drama this season
THE RUDE SUBORDINATE WHO THE MAIN CHARACTER IS CONCERNED WITH.

CRUNCH
JUST... JUST A LITTLE
Speaking of Tamhara Mie, she's known for all sorts of rumors starting between her and her male coworkers
I'm just a little worried
NO...
OH, SORRY
SOMETHING MUST BE GOING ON

If there was even a chance of that coming true
BUZZ BUZZ
HM?
Bleary-eyed
CLICK
A MES-SAGE?
Mail
From Marumie
Sub It's Mie
Good night Send me a message sometime ok? Mie
MIE...
"GOOD NIGHT"? IT'S ALREADY 4AM! I WONDER IF SHE'S DRUNK...

OH, RIGHT...
There was a party for Tamhara Nie's production team yesterday.
WHY DON'T WE CELEBRATE WITH CHAMPAGNE?
SORRY
Following
LET'S HEAD TO MY PLACE!
The afterparty (which most people didn't really want to attend), was at Tamhara's apartment.
AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE NOBODY (PARTICULARLY THE GUYS) THINKS THEY CAN TURN HER DOWN
I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO JUST LEAVE LIKE THIS...
UGH, SO ANNOYING
Transcendence

Grab
WHERE'RE YOU GOING, KANDA-GAWA-CHAN?
...TANI-HARA-SAN?
THERE'S STILL SOME TIME BEFORE MORNING
LET'S GO TO MY ROOM...♡
UMM, TANIHA-RA-SAN,
I'M...
CALL ME MIE! ♡
Great, another Mie
Ugh...

PUSH
I'M SORRY,
BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED,
AND REGARDLESS I HAVE WORK FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
HMPH!
I GET IT!
I MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME SLEEP
WELL,
MAKE SURE TO *BE CAREFUL* ON YOUR WAY HOME
HMF'H
GOOD-BYE
I REALLY MEAN BE CAREFUL!
WITH LEAVING MY APARTMENT IN PARTICULAR! ♡
Hehe
GEEZ

I TOLD THEM THAT I WASN'T INTERESTED IN ACTING.
Sounds annoying
GRIN
and such
PARTNER SHIMON-TAGAWA
BEGGED BY HIS MANAGERS.
COME ON, PLEASE!
JUST THIS ONCE!
I don't want to have to deal with any more obsessive fans
And I get all sorts of ridiculous requests from ladies' magazines.
We'd really appreciate it!
Squee!
Eee!
ON LOCATION.
I'm so busy and then there's all this other crap.
GAH! IT'S SO ANNOYING!!

Sneak
Shiver
HEHE
Come to think of it,
I haven't seen "her" for a while
UGH,
I'VE GOT CHILLS GOING DOWN MY SPINE
CLICK
CLICK
Send me a message sometime, ok?
Cmon, couldn't you at least reply to that message?
GRUMBLE
SIGH,
SHE'D PROBABLY JUST WHINE AT ME THE WHOLE TIME ANYWAY
Wobble
HUH?

IS SOMETHING WRONG, SIR?
HUH? NO, IT'S NOTHING
MAYBE I'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD
Maybe
I'll take a little nap

THE PREVIOUS EVENING THE TWO ARE SEEN GOING INTO A HIGH-CLASS YAKINIKU RESTAURANT TOGETHER!
AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, THEIR CALL PULLS INTO TANIHARA'S CITY APARTMENT BUILDING!
KANDAGAWA IS SEEN LEAVING HER PLACE EARLY THE NEXT MORNING
PSY DAY
Tanihara Mie ♥ Bun Bun Phrase's Kandagawa
Photo Scoop!
He's Staying the Night!
All-out Wide Show
But he just couldn't win against Tanihara Mie's charms!
And Bun Bun Phrase's Kandagawa-san was famous for being scandal free!
Wow, it's been a while since we've had a romance scoop like this

Wide grin
As coworkers, we're certainly *very close* ♡
I leave the rest to your imagination!
AIMING FOR THE CENTER OF THE STORM!
Tell us what your relationship is with Kandagawa-san
Chatter
Oooo!
A
GLARE
Please Kandagawa-san just say something!
Silence
Kandagawa-san!
Could you give us a comment regarding Tanihara-san?

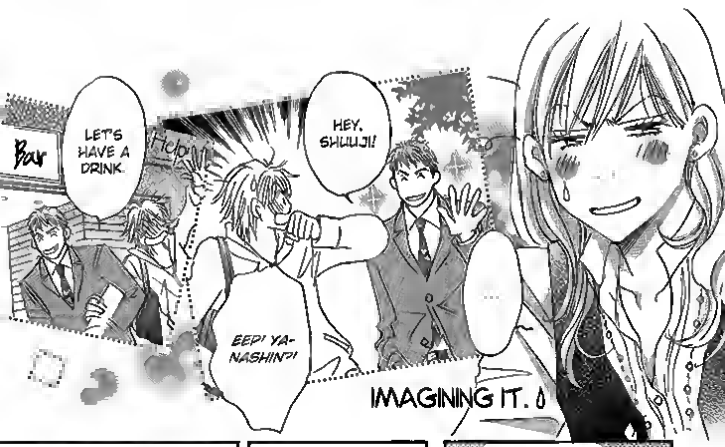
Kandagawa-san refused to comment...
I wonder what that means.
And now the drama's wrapping up, so he must be concerned with that...
IN THE OFFICE'S MEETING ROOM
Sighhh
WELL, THEY MAKE UP THIS KIND OF STUFF ALL OF THE TIME...
KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE
Hahaha
But I certainly let everyone know they were wrong.
But you know, it is Tamhara Mie we're talking about.

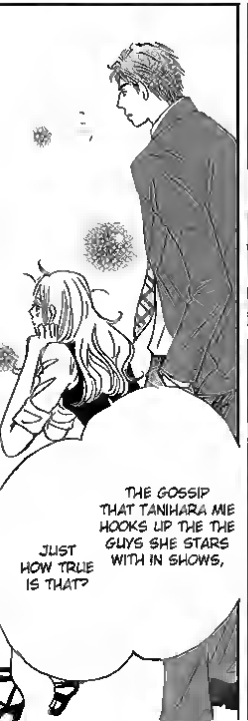
TWITCH
TWITCH
WOULDN'T HE ACT THE SAME WAY?
BUT IF IT WERE REALLY TRUE...
getting suspicous
I've mailed and called a bunch of times and he's never answered.
JEEZ
IT'S LIKE HE'S TURNED OFF HIS PHONE
Hey, Kandagawa-san!
Shouldn't you at least let me know what's up at a time like this?

GEEZ,
WHY AM I SO WORRIED ABOUT HIM?
Dammit!
AAAH!
I WONDER IF HE'S OKAY.
HE LOOKS KIND OF TIRED
BUT
CLUNK
CLICK

YANASHIN?!
YO.
Yanagi Shinichi—
A childhood friend who's now a young ace in the Electronic Communications division of an advertising company
Or so they say.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I TOLD THEM THAT I WANTED TO SAY HI TO YOU,
SO THEY TOLD ME WHERE YOU WERE.

I BROUGHT BY THE SECOND EDIT OF YOUR COMMERCIAL TODAY
ANYWAY, WHY ARE YOU MAKING THAT FACE?
BUT...
HEY
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
I DIDN'T IMAGINE THAT THE ONE YOU'RE "SERIOUS ABOUT"
ACTUALLY IS BLIN BLIN PHRASE'S KANDAGAWA
Whoa Im shocked..
GRIN
WE'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS,
AND ANYWAY, I JUST DRAGGED IT OUT OF OUR SUPER-POPULAR MODEL BUDDY, HATTA SHUUJI ♡


Bar
LET'S HAVE A DRINK.
Help me
HEY, SHUUJI!
EEP! YA-NASHIN?!
IMAGINING IT.


JUST HOW TRUE IS THAT?
THE GOSSIP THAT TANIHARA MIE HOOKS UP THE THE GUYS SHE STARS WITH IN SHOWS,

HEY.
YANASHIN

DON'T WORRY. MY LIPS ARE SEALED
Pat, pat
HMPH

I'D SAY IT'S REAL ABOUT 60% OF THE TIME...
WELL, IF I WERE GOING TO GIVE A PERCENTAGE,
60%?
HUH?
DO YOU MEAN...
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM KANDAGAWA?
Sigh...
Thump
"Could it be unrequited love?"
YOU MUST REALLY LIKE HIM...
NOT A WORD...

SLIP
Whisper
What?
THIS HASN'T BEEN RELEASED TO THE MEDIA.
BUT I HEARD THAT KANDAGAWA ACTUALLY COLLAPSED AT WORK
AND THAT HE'S BEEN HOSPITALIZED SINCE YESTERDAY.
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT...
CAN I ASK WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO MY EMPLOYEE?
Awkward

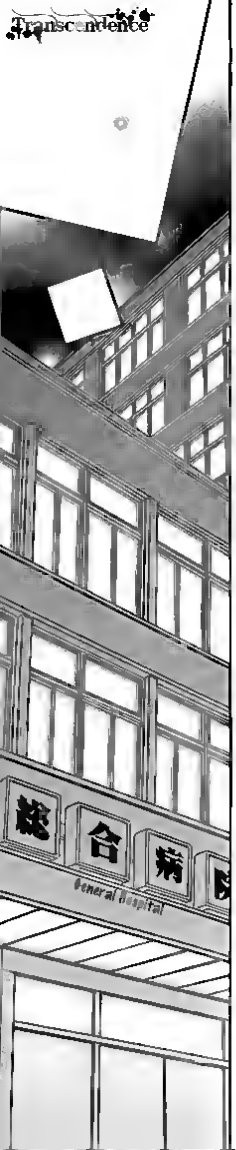
UHH, UMM...
BOSS!
CRAP!
BANG
SUMI-SHACHOU, DAIZU PRODUCTION MIE'S BOSS.
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, BOSS!
WE'VE BEEN KEEPING IT A SECRET,
BUT HE'S ACTUALLY A CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF MINE! HE'S ALWAYS TEASING ME!
Ah
YEAH, SORRY.
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
AND IT'S EASY TO GET COMFORTABLE WITH HER
CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, IS IT?

WELL,
I SHOULD GET GOING
Whisper
I DON'T KNOW ANY MORE DETAILS ABOUT KANDAGAWA.
SO YOU SHOULD GO FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF
THANKS FOR HAVING MY BACK
GOOD-BYE
Yanashin
Crumble
YOU'VE GOTTEN YET ANOTHER GUY HANGING OFF OF YOU?
I'M SURPRISED
CRINGE

I TOLD YOU, GEEZ
WE REALLY ARE JUST CHILDHOOD FRIENDS!
AND WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK WORRIED
I WON'T LET ANYTHING GET IN THE WAY OF YOU DOING YOUR JOB.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'M RARING TO GO!
IF YOUR THING WITH KANDAGAWA IS EXPOSED,
IT'S CERTAIN TO HURT HIS CAREER.
ME!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION RIGHT NOW?
YOU'RE NO TANIHARA MIE.
HONESTLY!
FIND SOMEONE AT YOUR LEVEL TO FALL IN LOVE WITH!
THIS WORLD DOESN'T EXIST
TO SATISFY YOUR WHIMS!

Teary
UGH.
TURN
GET YOURSELF CLEANED UP
YOU HAVE A TV GIG THIS AFTERNOON
KA-THUMP


総合病
General Hospital

EXCUSE ME, SIR,
BUT THE ROOF IS OFF LIMITS TO PATIENTS AT NIGHT.
Shocked
Puff
Clop clop clop
AND YOU SHOULDN'T LEAVE YOUR ROOM WITHOUT ALERTING SOMEONE!

AH.
I'M SORR-
Tumble

MHMM.
...ME?
HUH?
WHY AREN'T YOU DRESSED UP AS A NURSE?
WELL
I'D STAND OUT TOO MUCH AS A NURSE!
So I gave up on that for today

WELL, ANYWAY, IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS A GOOD THING I WASN'T IN MY ROOM.
WHAT WOULD PEOPLE THINK IF THEY SAW SOME STRANGE DOCTOR PUSHING ME DOWN?
HAS TANIHARA MIE DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO YOU?
...WHAT DO YOU THINK?
COULD BE!
BUT SINCE IT SEEMS LIKE THINGS HAVE BEEN SO BAD FOR YOU THAT HAD TO BE HOSPITALIZED,
I'LL FORGIVE YOU THIS TIME

ACK!
HOW ARE YOU DOING? ARE YOU OKAY?
PAFF
WELL SAID FOR SOMEONE WHO JUST TACKLED ME
Sorry!
ANYWAY, APPARENTLY I'VE JUST HAD A PERSISTENT COLD.
I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT I HAD A FEVER AND PUSHED MYSELF TOO HARD,
AND BEFORE I KNEW IT I'D FALLEN OVER.
JUST TO BE SAFE THEY HAD ME HOSPITALIZED,
BUT I'M GOING BACK TO WORK TOMORROW

He he he
WHAT?
AFTER I FORCED SHIMONTAGA-WA-SAN TO TELL ME WHICH HOSPITAL YOU WERE IN
AND WORKED SO HARD TO SNEAK IN?!
Heh
HEY, KANDAGAWA-SAN
YOU HATED ALL OF THE FUSS DUE TO THE GOSSIP, DIDN'T YOU?

I THOUGHT SO
WORRYING ABOUT SOMEONE WHEN I COULDN'T EVEN TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT
I'M SO TIRED OF IT.
UGH.
IT WAS AWFUL.
Hop!
I GOT TO CHECK IN ON YOU AND SEE THAT YOU WERE OKAY.
SO I'LL GET GOING NOW!
SO!
MIE?

BOW
FROM NOW ON,
I WON'T BE BOTHERING YOU
HUH?
UMM,
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME ANYMORE.

GRAB
SEE YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WAIT!
Slap
I WANT TO BECOME THE KIND OF GIRL THAT YOU CAN BE PROUD TO BE SEEN WITH!

IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE, BUT...
I'M GOING TO TRY FOR IT ANYWAY!
UNTIL THAT HAPPENS,
MARUYAMA ME IS GOING TO WORK HER HARDEST AND FOCUS
ON HER WORK

I REALLY LOVE YOU!
AND THAT'S WHY
I CAN'T SEE YOU AGAIN!

GOODBY-

KAND-
DON'T PUT WORDS IN MY MOUTH.
YOU KNOW THEY SAY THAT I HATE WOMEN, RIGHT?
YOU CAN'T.

SO WHEN I FINALLY FIND THAT RARE WOMAN I'M ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN...
Huh?
I'M NOT GOING TO LET HER GO THAT EASILY.

I'M TELLING YOU
THAT I LOVE YOU.
OKAY?

<Vol.14 The Same Man as Always> *The End*

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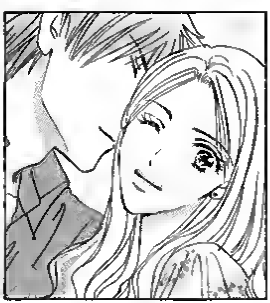

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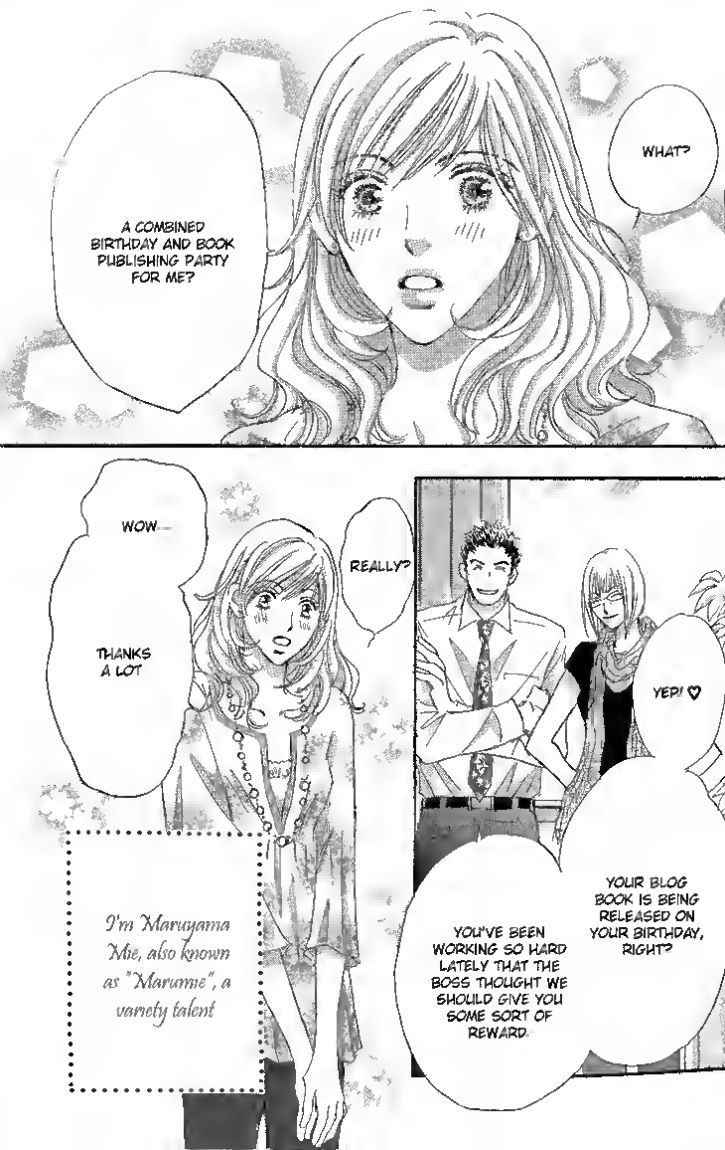
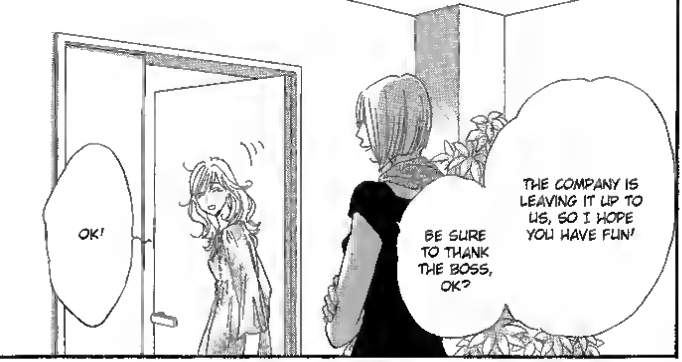
Vol.15

DEFINITELY THIS MAN

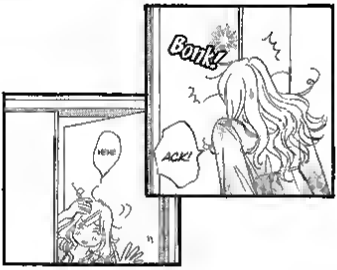

WHAT?
A COMBINED BIRTHDAY AND BOOK PUBLISHING PARTY FOR ME?
YOUR BLOG BOOK IS BEING RELEASED ON YOUR BIRTHDAY, RIGHT?
YEP! ♡
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD LATELY THAT THE BOSS THOUGHT WE SHOULD GIVE YOU SOME SORT OF REWARD.
REALLY?
WOW—
THANKS A LOT
I'm Maruyama Mie, also known as "Marume", a variety talent



But I actually am super happy about having a party

It'll be the first event put on just for me!

But..



I...I thought I'd had what was going to be the best moment of my life...

But now is not the time for things like that!

I had always thought he was totally out of reach, but.

The popular comedian Kandagawa, of the duo "Bun Bun Phrase", said to me...

"I'm telling you that I love you"

Slump

He told me that, but
Grab
KANDAGA WA IN THE HOSPITAL.
AFTER THE CONFESSION
I SHOULD BE GOING NOW.
WELL, THEN, GOOD NIGHT

(CLACK)
Aaah, what should I do?
I guess I'm really Kandaga-wa's girlfriend~

Yeah.
THE NURSE COSTUME WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE BEEN BETTER
For this sort of thing.
HAH.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ANYWAY,
I GUESS THIS MEANS WE'RE BACK TO WHERE WE WERE BEFORE.
THE SAME AS BEFORE?
YE H. IS SOMETHING WRONG?

BUT AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO BE... TOGETHER NOW?
Umm
BY... "BEFORE". DO YOU MEAN...?
UP TILL NOW, WE'VE BARELY BEEN ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER ONCE EVERY TEN DAYS.
WE'RE GOING TO TRY FOR AT LEAST ONCE A DAY NOW, RIGHT?
ISN'T THAT HOW NORMAL ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS ARE SUPPOSED TO GO?
AND IF WE CAN'T SEE EACH OTHER, WE'LL AT LEAST TALK ON THE PHONE EVERY NIGHT...
AND EVENTUALLY EVEN THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH AND WE'LL DECIDE TO LIVE TOGETHER... YOU KNOW?
"NORMAL" ONES, SURE.
BUT WHAT'S NORMAL ABOUT US?

AND ANYWAY,
CLACK
DIDN'T YOU SAY EARLIER THAT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO SEE ME AGAIN?
IT SEEMED LIKE IT TO ME
YOU'VE MADE QUITE A 180 SINCE THEN
BAH
BUT... BUT I REALLY MEANT IT THEN!
I REALLY INTENDED TO DO IT.
BUT...
BUT I NEVER IMAGINED YOU TELLING ME YOU LOVE ME AND WEREN'T LETTING ME GO

DO YOU THINK I'M A GIRL YOU CAN JUST LEAD ON HOWEVER YOU LIKE?
NOTHING CHANGING?
THE SAME AS ALWAYS?
WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU LOVED ME, I THOUGHT YOU MEANT IT! I GUESS I WAS WRONG ABOUT THAT!
OF COURSE I'M AN IDIOT!
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
YOU THINK IT'S LIKE THAT?
Huh?

Smack
WELL,
I GUESS YOU JUST CAN'T HELP BEING YOU!
YOU REALLY HAD ME GOING THERE!
WILL YOU STOP ALREADY! DO YOU HONESTLY MEAN THAT?
IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU THINK?
I'M SURPRISED AT YOU...

THUMP
MIE ...
UGH!
BUT ..
SLAM
YOU KNOW WHAT?
IT'S PROBABLY BEST IF I DIDN'T SEE YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE!

Sighhh
Honestly...
I never thought the high point of my life would turn sour that quickly...
Whaa?
I get it...
I said too much.
As soon as we were finally "together,"
we had our first big fight
CLUNK

Because I never honestly say/say what I really feel.

I said too much, but I don't want to apologize

Hey!

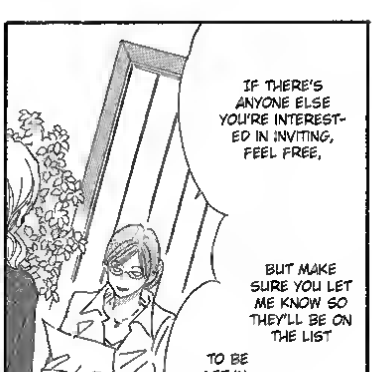
do you really have no plans to change even a little bit for me?

I know Kandagawa wasn't lying to me about his feelings

But I'm also stubborn, and my feelings aren't going to go away

Sigh...
MIE?
SO,
IS THE GUEST LIST OK?
UM,
YEAH.
We're planning to rent out the whole restaurant ♡
Hey,
Kandagawa-san

OK...
UMM...

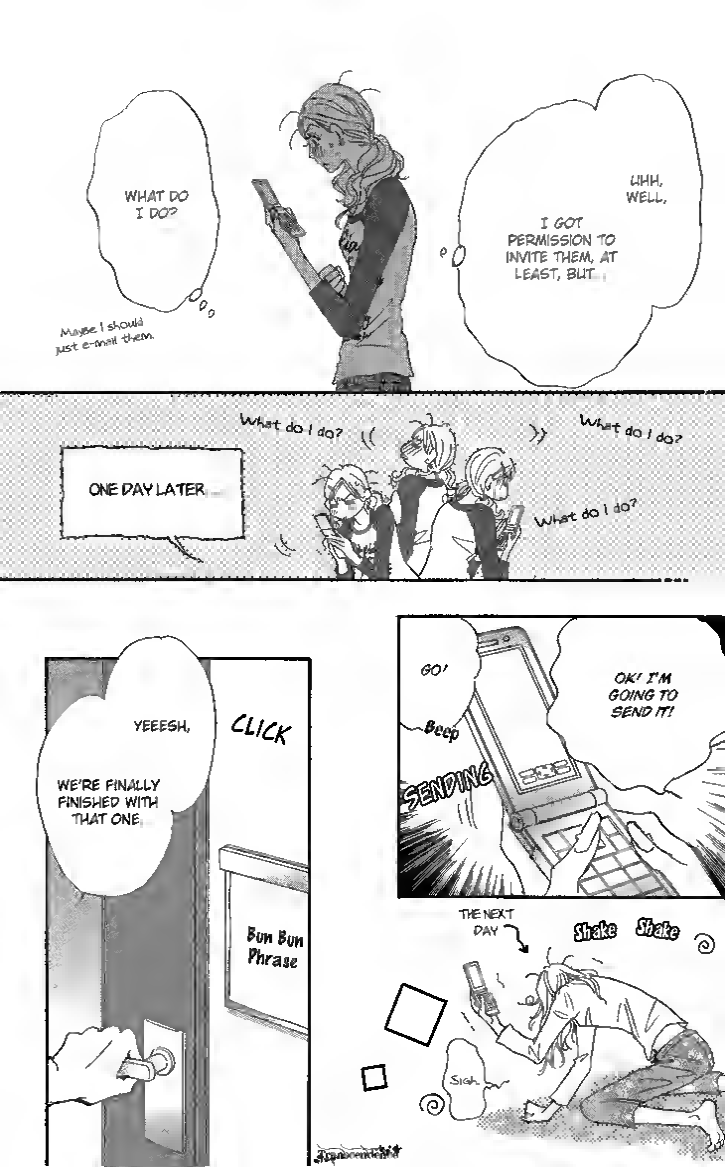

IF THERE'S ANYONE ELSE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN INVITING, FEEL FREE,
BUT MAKE SURE YOU LET ME KNOW SO THEY'LL BE ON THE LIST TO BE LET IN

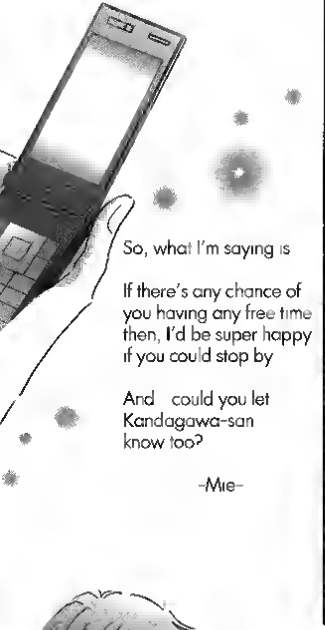
Ha.
YOU KNOW THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D COME, RIGHT?

YEAH,
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
BUT

WHAT ABOUT BUN BUN PHRASE? THEY DID HAVE ME ON THEIR SHOW AND ALL ..
Nervous
NOT ON THE LIST OF COURSE

Tense
CAN I SEND THEM AN INVITATION AT LEAST,
JUST FOR THE HECK OF IT?
OF COURSE!
OK, OK.
BUT COULD YOU KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM MY MANAGER AND THE BOSS?
It's probably impossible but...
OUR BRANCH ISN'T THAT CLOSE WITH BUN BUN PHRASE'S BRANCH ANYWAY.
IT'S FINE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANT...
BUT BE CAREFUL THAT YOU AREN'T TOO PUSHY.
So far,
the only people at work who know about me and Kandagawa-san
are my manager and boss
And they'll be totally against it


WHAT DO I DO?
Maybe I should just e-mail them.
UHH, WELL,
I GOT PERMISSION TO INVITE THEM, AT LEAST, BUT...
ONE DAY LATER...
What do I do?
What do I do?
What do I do?
YEEESH,
CLICK
WE'RE FINALLY FINISHED WITH THAT ONE.
Bun Bun Phrase
GO!
Beep
SENDING
OK! I'M GOING TO SEND IT!
THE NEXT DAY
Shake
Shake
Sigh


So, what I'm saying is
If there's any chance of you having any free time then, I'd be super happy if you could stop by
And could you let Kandagawa-san know too?
-Mie-

Let's see if I have any free moments.
OH! MARUMIE?
BUN BUN PHRASES SHIMONTAGAWA

HEY, KANDA-GAWA!
I GOT THIS MESSAGE FROM MARUMIE!!
AND SHE TOLD *ME* TO LET *YOU* KNOW-
ARE YOU HAVING A FIGHT OR SOMETHING?

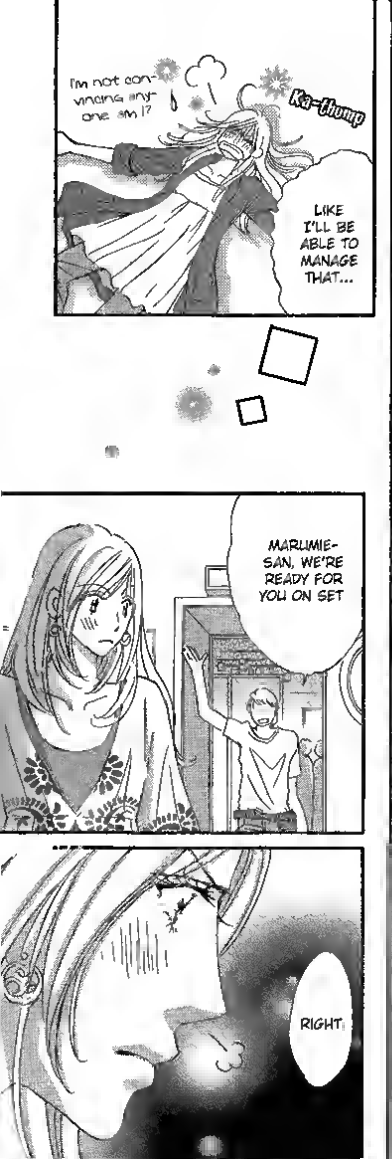
HEY, WHY DON'T WE GO FOR A LITTLE BIT?
I BET SHE'LL BE SUPER-EXCITED ABOUT IT
Even though her management company might not be happy about it.

HMM...
Hehe
PASS
WELL, I'D BETTER RESPOND! ♡
Beep beep beep
GO IF YOU WANT TO.

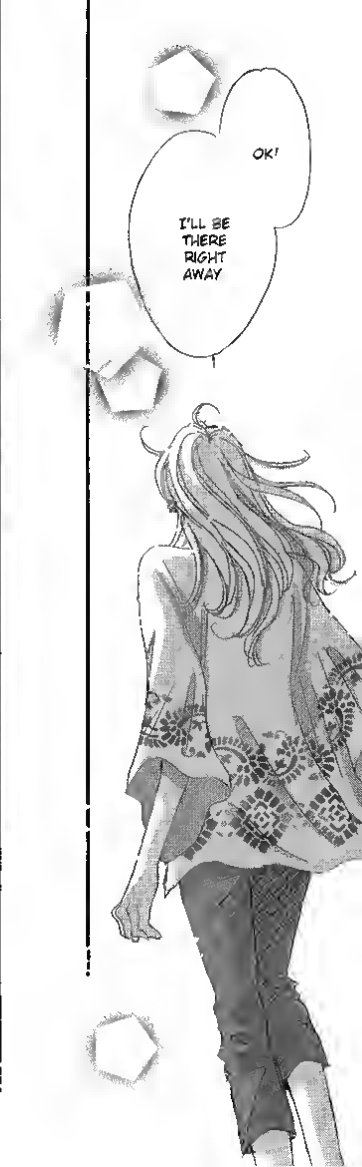
OH, IT'S NOTHING!
WHAT'S UP?
HE RESPONDED!
UHH...
Click!
Beep
Thanks for the invitation! ♡
If I can find the time, I'll be sure to show up for a little bit! ☺
Shimontagawa ★
Wow! ♡
But the reply
is it only referring to Shimontagawa or does it mean both of them?

WAH! WHICH IS IT?
But I can't exactly ask "Will Kandagawa-san come too?"
WHAT IS UP WITH YOU?! YOU'RE NOT PUTTING ANY ENERGY INTO ANYTHING LATELY!
GRAR!
AAAH!
SORRY, SORRY!
AT THIS RATE I MIGHT AS WELL CANCEL THE PARTY!
DISTRACTED
SIGH
Maruyama Mie
DISTRACTED.
Hello? You're in the middle of an interview!
He-hey?!
Fwump!

I really need to stop worrying and get myself together
It's not like me to be this lethargic
CLENCH
Crumble
Honestly,
what am I doing?
Right!
If I just do my work properly,
I'll surely shine


I'm not convincing anyone am I?
Ka-thump
LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO MANAGE THAT...
MARUMIE-SAN, WE'RE READY FOR YOU ON SET
RIGHT!
If I do my best and shine at work,
I can defintely make Kandagawa-san want me!
So I'm not going to talk to him
unless he talks to me first!

Chez Nada
IT'S FINALLY THE DAY OF THE PARTY
Reserved
for the day.

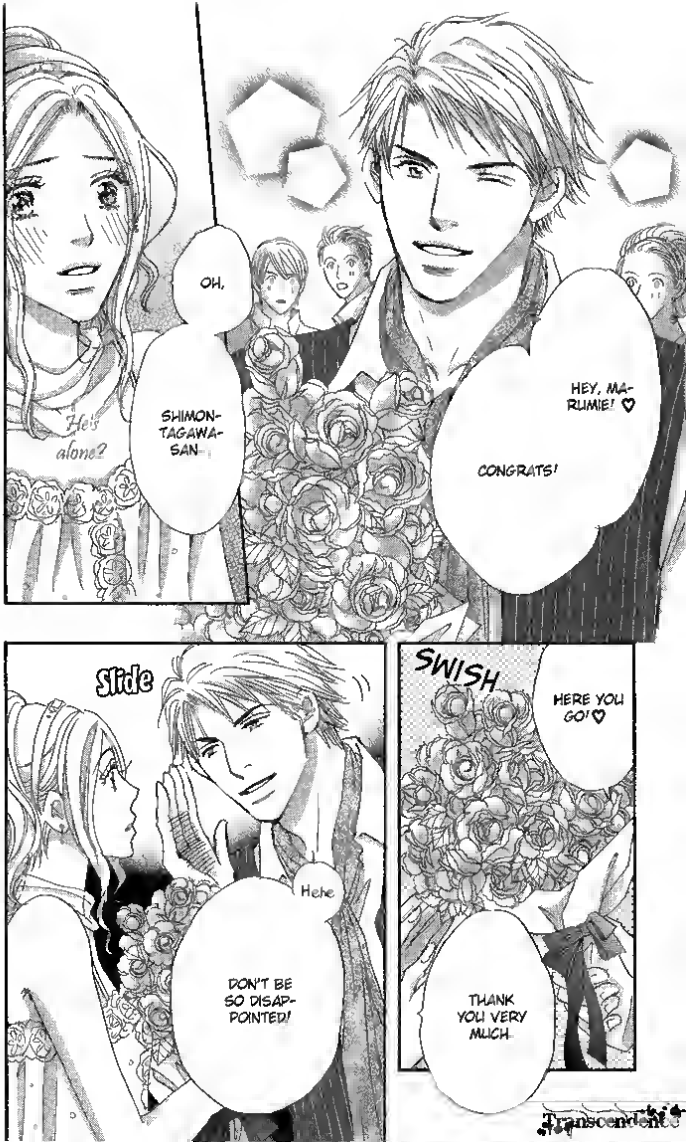

OK!
I'LL BE THERE RIGHT AWAY

HELLO!
WE'RE "HINOMOTO."
NEW COMEDY DUO
Reception
HELLO, MAY I HAVE YOUR NAMES PLEASE?
MY NAME IS HATTA SHUUJI.
NEW MODEL
I'M YANAGI FROM THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA DIVISION.
BIG ADVERTISING COMPANY'S YOUNG ACE
OH, HEY...
UHH, NICE TO SEE YOU.

NICE TO SEE YOU
BOW
OH,
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE. MIE'S TWO CHILD-HOOD FRIENDS, TOGETHER.
THE BOSS
Ok then
ENJOY YOUR-SELVES!
HE'S SCARY!
WOW, MIE'S LOOKING CUTE TODAY! ♡
Blog Book Release
&
Happy Birthday
MIE♡MARUYAMA
CONGRATU-LATIONS, MARUMIE!
MMM

I
REALLY WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR TODAY.
TOKO
CON-GRATS!
CON-GRATS, MIE!
THANKS!

If he doesn't show up today, I guess that mean's we're really over...
I didn't get any more messages from Shimontagawa-san after that one...
And, of course, none from Kandagawa-san, either...
CHATTER
WOW! IT'S BUN BUN PHRASE!
Ba-dump
Transcendence


He's alone?
OH,
SHIMON-TAGAWA-SAN-!
HEY, MA-RUMIE! ♡
CONGRATS!
Slide
Hehe
DON'T BE SO DISAP-POINTED!
SWISH
HERE YOU GO! ♡
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

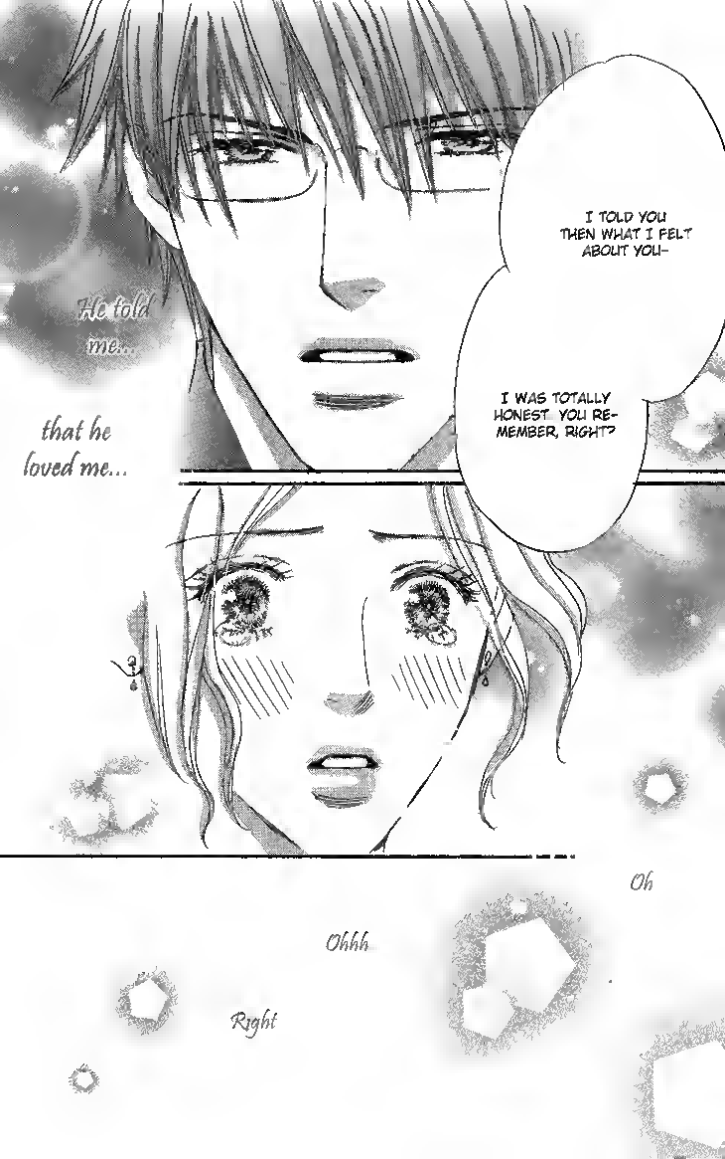
GRIN
HALF ARE FROM HIM, YOU KNOW.
HE CAME, BUT JUST COULDN'T COME IN.
HE'S WAITING OUTSIDE.
Huh?
Whisper
HE'S GOT TO BE CAREFUL, YOU KNOW.
HE'S AFRAID YOUR SCARY BOSS WILL GET ANGRY AND RUIN THE PARTY ATMOSPHERE.
DON'T YOU PITY HIM?
SCARY BOSS

TOSS
HUH?
EXCUSE ME.
HUH?
SO SHE CARES MORE ABOUT HIM THAN THE FLOWERS

Q: Suave very suave.

YO.
GEEZ,
I WANT KANDAGAWA-SAN!
CAN'T WE JUST BE HONEST ABOUT WHAT WE WANT?

...
Crap!
CRUSHED
ACK!
I MEANT FOR HIM TO SAY IT FIRST,
BUT I WENT AND BLURTED IT OUT MYSELF!
YOU KNOW... YOU'RE USUALLY SO CONFIDENT AND SURE OF YOURSELF-
WHY CAN'T YOU BE THAT WAY WHEN IT REALLY COUNTS?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D STOP YOU LIKE THAT ON THE ROOF IF I DIDN'T WANT YOU?


He told me...
that he loved me...
I TOLD YOU THEN WHAT I FELT ABOUT YOU-
I WAS TOTALLY HONEST. YOU REMEMBER, RIGHT?
Oh
Ohhh
Right

It's not that Kandagawa-san didn't want to change,
or anything like that...
When he had told me those things...
And he had sounded so happy
The problem was that I had so little confidence in myself
that I didn't understand what he meant...

AND...
ABOUT THE PARTY TODAY...
Yeah.
YEAH...
I'm sorry.
YOU KNOW...
So she's that kind of girl.
COULD I...
ASK YOU TO TELL ME ONE MORE TIME?

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANT...
COME HERE.
OK..?♡
STEP
THIS TIME,
MAKE SURE YOU LISTEN PROPERLY!
YESSIR!

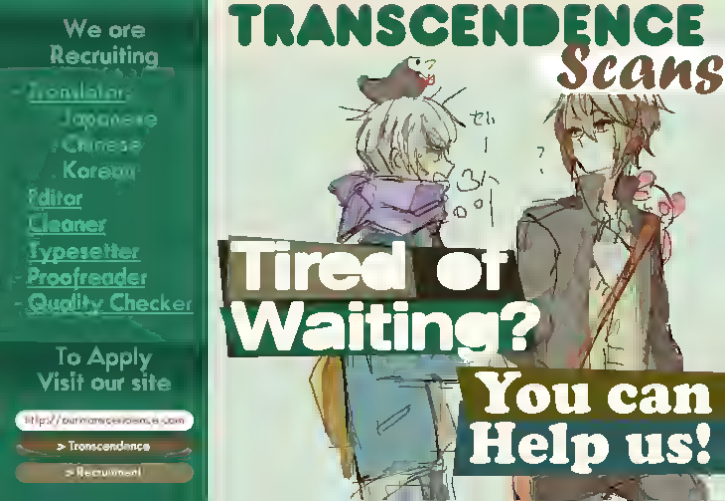
MEANIE—
You tricked me.
GRIN
...
Chatter Chatter
OH!
SQUEEZE
WELL, WHATEVER.

Jump
Ah!
WE FOUND MARUMIE!
TO THINK THE STAR OF THE PARTY WOULD BE OUT HERE...
HUH?
IS THAT... KANDAGAWA-SAN?!
OH, NO
Umm, well, you see...
EVERYBODY'S COME OUT

IT'S A PAIN WHEN GIRLS MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF THINGS...
I
WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR...
Ka-thump
KANDA-
MIE.
Chatter
HUH?
SIR...

EXCUSE ME, BUT...
I'M STAKING MY CLAIM ON HER.

<Vol. 15 Definitely this man> *The End*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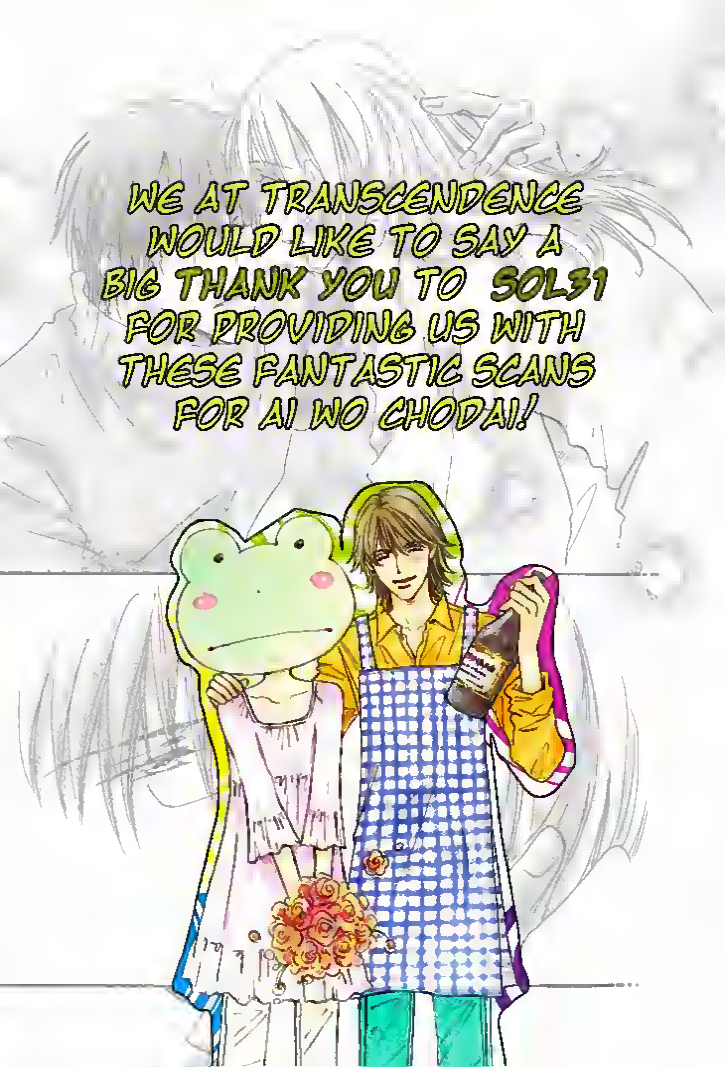

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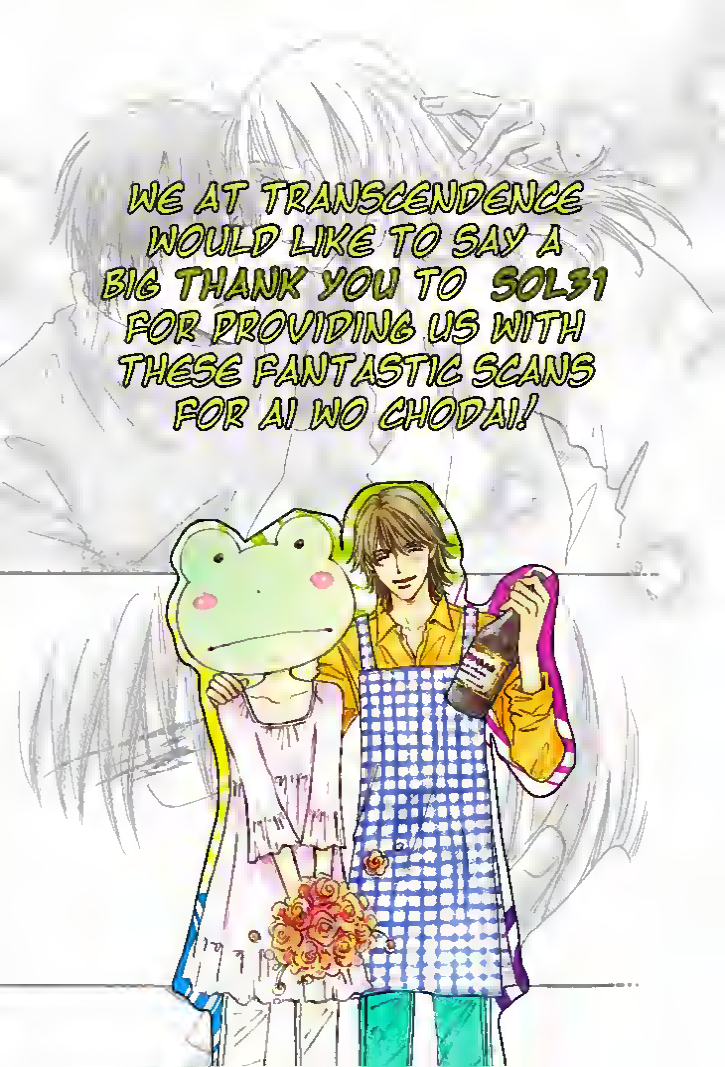

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STORY

Maruyama Mie, also known as "Maru-mie", is a rising variety talent. Ever since she hooked up with Kandagawa-san of the comedy duo "Bun Bun Phrase", both her work and her personal lives have been looking up! But, for some reason, new men keep appearing. You won't be able to stop reading until the end, in this final volume of our workplace love story!

FCα Petit Comic フラワーコミックスアルファ

Thank you very much!

There are a total of four volumes in "Atwo Chodai," and it's taken about four years, but it's finally finished.

Personally, drawing this comic was so much fun, I couldn't help myself ♥ ♥ And I really like every character, as well.

I'm really thankful for all of the readers who stayed with me 'til the very end.

I love the characters in this series so much that I think I'll have them show up in some other manga sometime. If you find them, be sure to laugh, please!

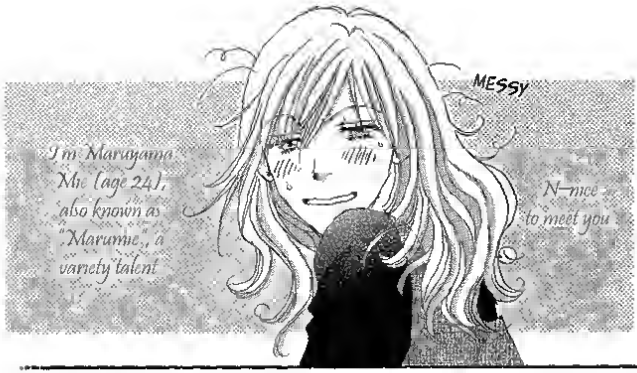
I particularly want to thank the editors (who usually work on small comics) who worked with me on this project. I'm brimming with gratitude for you all. And thanks to all of the staff who worked with me during this long time! ♥ ♥

Ooya Kazumi

Vol.16

THE BEST MAN

"I'm staking my claim on her."
Sighhhhhh!
They sigh, just thinking about it.
THE OTHER ACTRESSES
THAT KANDAGAWA-SAN AND MARUMIE...
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
Sighhh
Why you- why you- why do you get to be so happy?
Eeek!


I'm Marayama Mie (age 24), also known as "Marumie", a variety talent
MESSY
N-nice to meet you

Even after a month,
everyone's still talking about it
How did you get him?
What's so good about you, anyway?
What do you two do when you're alone?
BUT, THANKFULLY, IT HASN'T BEEN LEAKED TO THE PRESS YET

My boyfriend,
Kandagawa-san of the popular young comedy duo "Bun Bun Phrase", was a secret
when suddenly, with that bombshell announcement
Until the other day,

BUT, KANDAGAWA,
YOU REALLY SAID IT THERE.
BAR
Stand By Me
YOU KNOW MIE'S GOING TO BE THE ONE TO SUFFER, RIGHT?
SHE COULD EVEN BE LET GO FROM HER JOB
WOW,
YOU REALLY THOUGHT IT OUT, DIDN'T YOU?
That's Kandagawa for you ♥
THERE'S NO WAY HER BOSS WOULD LET HER GO THAT EASILY.
BUN BUNIPHRASE'S
KANDAGAWA
&
SHIMONTAGAWA

Right Right
I SAW HER TODAY AT THE STATION.
SHE WAS LOOKING PRETTY EXHAUSTED FROM WORKING SO HARD.
I HEARD THAT INSTEAD OF FIRING HER,
MARUMIE'S BOSS HAS BEEN WORKING HER LIKE A DOG.
She's been on all sorts of shows.
YEESH.
MAYBE HER AGENCY IS TRYING TO INTERFERE IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP
HAVE YOU MET WITH HER LATELY?
NOT AT ALL

WHAAAT?
YOU'VE BEEN SO BUSY SINCE THEN
THAT YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO SEE KANDA-GAWA-SAN AT ALL?
EVEN THOUGH HE FINALLY TOLD EVERYONE?!
UHHH, ACTU ALLY
Weepy
EV-
EVERY-ONE
ME
YOU
IT'S IT'S FINE!
THOSE WORDS
GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO GO ON LIVING!
GRAB

ARE THEY... BULLYING HER... OR SOMETHING?
OOO...
DRAG DRAG DRAG
COME ON, MIE!
WE NEED YOU UP AT FIVE AGAIN TOMORROW, SO LET'S GET YOU HOME!
Good-bye everyone!
That's right—
although our relationship has been approved by our offices,
real life has not been quite so sweet.
Where is my happiness?!
CLATTER
I'M HEADING OUT NOW

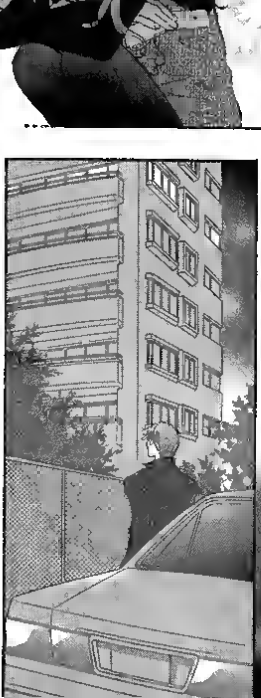
IS HE IN A BAD MOOD?
OK, GOOD NIGHT!
Hmph
WELL,
IT MIGHT BE OK FOR *HIM*...
...
HEY,
AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE TOO CRUEL TO MARUMIE?

GRIN
WELL THEN...
SIR
YOU'D HAVE CERTAINLY GOTTEN AN EARFUL...
EVEN SO, IF HE'D KNOWN YOU WERE HERE,
HMM
IT'S ALL GOING ACCORDING TO THE PLAN, ISN'T IT?
Sighhh...
Thump

BUZZ BUZZ
Slump
UGH, IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE?
It's one AM.
I CAN SLEEP FOR MAYBE THREE HOURS—
But I still have to take a shower
Beep
BUZZ BUZZ
YES?!
OH!♡
Hey, you home now?
Kanda-waga-san
Sigh

Hello? Goodnight– I'm going to hang up now
Hehe
His voice sounds brusque, but caring
Even if it's just a short call, it's nice to know he's worried about me
YEAH,
ARE YOU HOME NOW, TOO?
BUT I HAVE TO WORK AT SIX
Yeah, I just got home
But anyway
You shouldn't be talking on the phone–get some sleep!
DOES HE REALIZE HE CALLED ME?
HUH?
WHAT?

I THINK I CAN GIVE IT MY BEST TOMORROW
Snooze
I can't see him,
but with only a brief chat.
RIGHT,
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT...

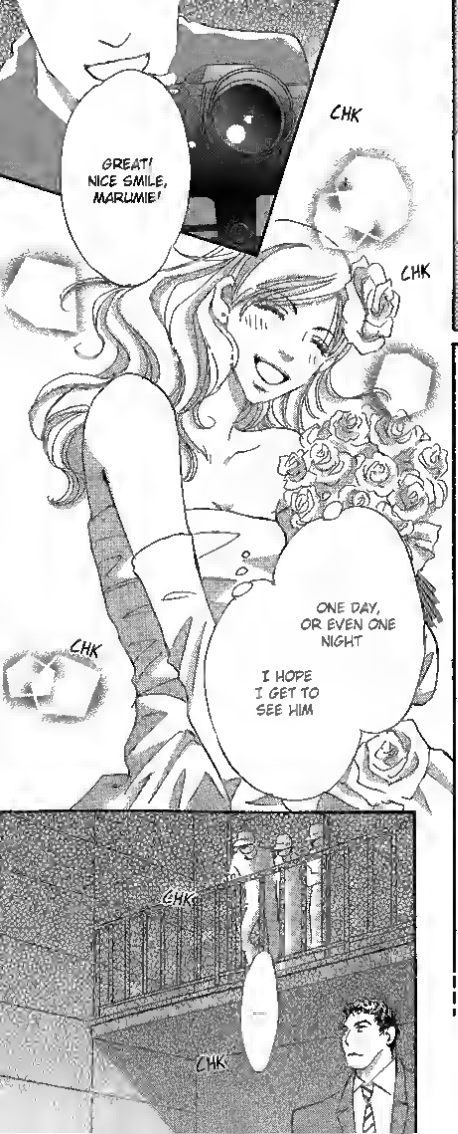


CLICK
HEH.

SORRY, THANKS FOR WAITING.
The two of us were right in the middle of it, but...
At the time, we had no idea things were closing in from the shadows!

A FEW DAYS LATER...
WOW! ♡ CUTE! ♡
Right Now!
IS THAT SO ?
MARUMIE WILL BE PLAYING A BRIDE! ♡
It's cosplay so the more unbelievable the better, right?
OUR MAIN FEATURE THIS MONTH IS A COSPLAY SPECIAL! ♡
Daydreaming
...DRESSED UP LIKE A BRIDE...
WOW... ♡ I WANT KANDAGAWA-SAN TO SEE ME LIKE THIS

Sigh!
Get yourself together!
THIS ISN'T COSPLAY!
IT HAS TO BE REAL, RIGHT?
For me...
MIE!
WHAT?
RIGHT. WORK HARD!
IT'S A LITTLE OUT OF THE BLUE, BUT..
WHEN YOU FINISH WORK TODAY,
YOU'VE GOT FOUR DAYS OFF.
Whaaaa?!
Four days off suddenly? This must be a trick—
They're bound to find something for me to do in four days...

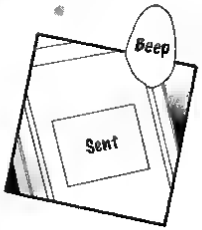


To Kandagawa-san,

It's crazy, but I've been given 4 days off starting tomorrow!

How're things with you? I'd like to see you! ♥

--Mie



Good work, everyone!
OH!
HE RE-PLIED! ♡
Sorry.
I'm on location for 4 days on a southern island starting tomorrow.
-Kandagawa
Dejected!
WHAAAT?
WHY IS THE TIMING ALWAYS SO BAD?

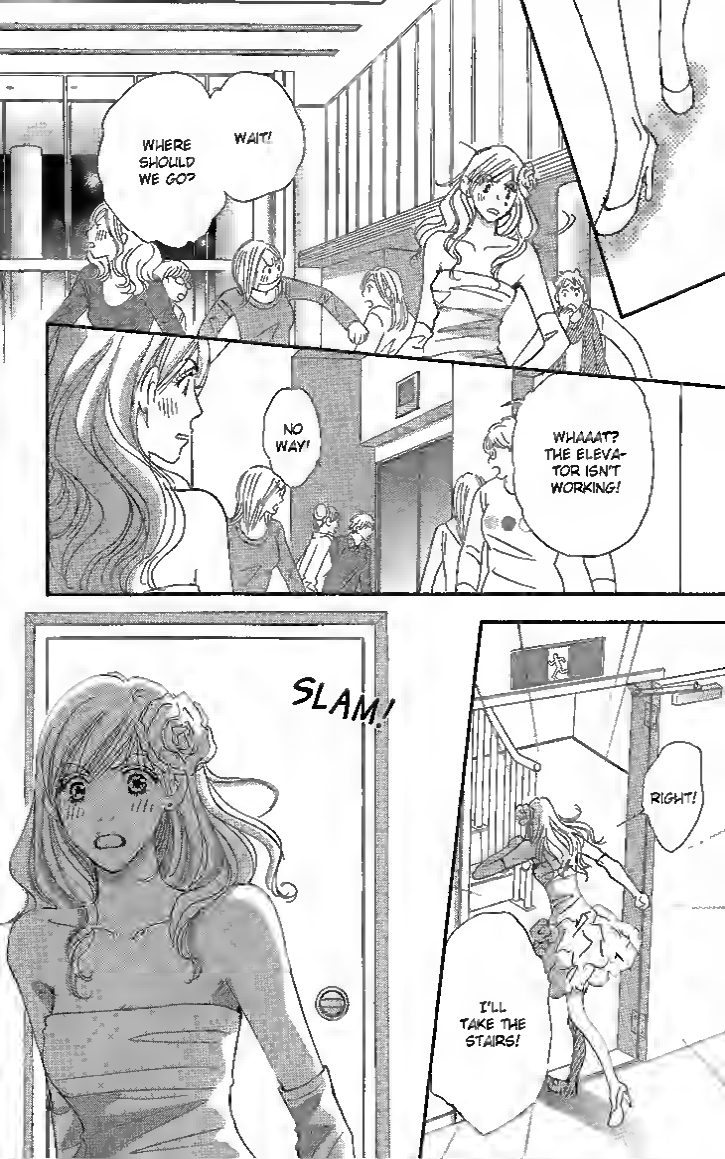
DRAG DRAG
Grab!
WE'VE CAPTURED MARU-MIE!
?!
What happened to my time off?
WHAT IS THIS?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HUH? WHAT? TV CAMERAS? MANAGER?
IN FACT, IT'S JUST GETTING STARTED.
DON'T THINK WORK IS OVER FOR TODAY.
WHAAAA?!
I DIDN'T HEAR YOU!!

Ta-
HELLO!
LET'S WELCOME OUR BEAUTIFUL CHALLENGERS!
WELL!
I'M HAPPY TO INTRODUCE THE MAIN EVENT OF TODAY'S "BUN BUN PHRASE SPECIAL"!
Bun Bun Phrase's Beauty and the Beast
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"!!
WOW!
LADIES SUDDENLY CAST AS BEAUTIFUL CHALLENGERS
Dazed
ENTER TANEK
ONEE
ENTER TANER
TALENT
ENTER TANER
DRAG QUEEN

SOMEWHERE IN THIS UNOCCUPIED BUILDING,
THE BEAST HAS CAPTURED OUR PRINCE KANDAGAWA,
Swoon♥
Let's take a peek!
AND EVEN NOW THE BEAST MIGHT BE PREPARING HIM FOR SUPPER!
What is he doing stealing my victory kiss with Kandagawa-san before I can have it?!
SO!
THE LADY WHO MANAGES TO PASS THROUGH OUR GAUNTLET OF TRAPS AND SAVE PRINCE KANDAGAWA BEFORE THE TIME LIMIT WILL RECEIVE ONE MILLION YEN*!
AND FURTHERMORE, SHE'LL WIN A PASSIONATE KISS WITH THE PRINCE!
Woohoo!
Even if the Prince is against it, you'll still get your kiss, so do as you like with him!

*T/N Approximately 12,087 USD

Dash
READY, SET, GO!!
Go go go!
GRIN
This time, I'm definitely not going to let that annoying Onee—or anyone else for that matter—get to Kandagawa-san's hips!


WAIT!
WHERE SHOULD WE GO?
WHAAAT? THE ELEVATOR ISN'T WORKING!
NO WAY!
I'LL TAKE THE STAIRS!
RIGHT!
SLAM!

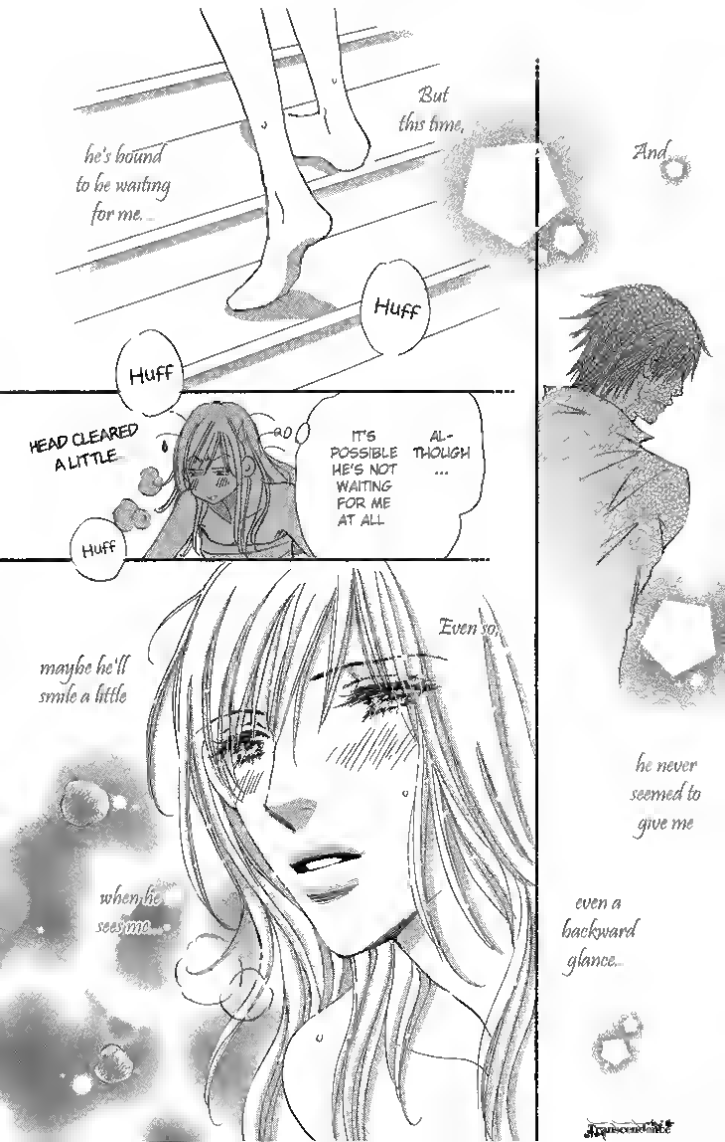
I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO UP...
Clop
Clench
THERE'S PROBABLY A HIDDEN CAMERA SOMEWHERE...
RATTLE
RATTLE
THE FIRE DOOR CLOSED ON ME!
12
Clunk-Clunk-Clunk
Huff
Huff
5 6
Huff
Huff
Clunk-Clunk-Clunk
8 9
Huff
FINALLY!
A FLOOR WITH THE DOOR OPEN!

DASH
!!
KANDA
Ta-da!
HINOMOTO HERE! ♡
HELLO!

WELL, YOU SEE,
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO STAR IN ONE OF BUN BUN PHRASE'S SPECIALS! ♡
SQUEEZE
AND IT SEEMS WE'RE CAST AS IMPOSTORS!
WHY . . . ARE YOU GUYS... HERE?
ACK
SMACK!
SO THEY AREN'T ON THIS FLOOR, HUH?
Jeez
GREAT, THIS MEANS YOU'RE JUST WASTING MY TIME
DASH
MIE-SAN, WAIT!
♥ MISS ME!! ♥

Closest to heaven?
THAT MEANS... THE ROOF?
The Prince is being held in the place closest to heaven.
WE HAVE A HINT FOR YOU!
Fired up
Good luck!
THANK YOU!
Don't worry, Kandagawa-san! I'm coming for you!
AS LONG AS I KEEP GOING UP, RIGHT?
UP UP UP!
HOW MANY FLOORS DOES THIS BUILDING HAVE?
MAN,

Huff
Now that I think about it,
We won't let you go until you pass our test!
Hohoho!
PLEASE CARRY THIS NUKED BEAR UPSTAIRS ♡
Smack!
Huh?
Ugh! So annoying!
Huff
Huff
MESSY
I've always been struggling after
and chasing Kandagawa-san
Huff


But this time,
he's bound to be waiting for me...
Huff
Huff
HEAD CLEARED A LITTLE...
Huff
IT'S POSSIBLE HE'S NOT WAITING FOR ME AT ALL
AL-THOUGH ...
And
Even so,
maybe he'll smile a little
when he sees me...
he never seemed to give me
even a backward glance...

Huff
CLATTER
Huff
Huff
OH...
Surprised
I...
I FOUND HIM...
Kandagawa-san!

Punch!
DASH
BUT I WON'T LET YOU HAVE THE PRINCE!
YOU'VE FOUND US!
Wobbling
COLLAPSE
KANDAGA-WA-SAN,
MARUME HAS COME TO SAVE YOU
It looks like he's making a worried grimace instead?
Huh?
He doesn't look happy to see me at all

STUMBLE
HEY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
MIE!
STAFF! SOMEONE?!

Silence...
THOSE GUYS...
Dammit
IF THE ELEVATORS ARE STILL STOPPED, I'M GOING TO KILL SOMEONE!
MGH?
SLIDE
GOOD

I WORKED SO HARD TO FIND YOU.
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO UNHAPPY?
Squeeze
GRUMBLE
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LOOK,
SEEING YOU SO PALE AND WORN OUT?

SIGH
YOU KNOW,
THERE'S PROBABLY SOME HIDDEN CAMERA IN THIS ELEVATOR
OH!
I REALLY MISSED YOU...
ISN'T IT?
IT'S OUR FIRST TIME TOGETHER SINCE THAT DAY,

WHATEVER.
THEY'LL EDIT IT ANYWAY.
FINALLY, THERE'S THAT IDIOTIC LOOK OF YOURS I KNOW SO WELL!
Kandagawa-san

Squeeze
No, wait! My legs are still wobbly!
And if you're feeling better get off of me!
Ding!
1
SLIDE
Bang!
Yaaay!
Bang!
Bang!
!!

ANGRY
SHIMONTA-GAWA! YOU..
WHAT? WE MANAGED TO FILM AN AMAZ-ING SPECIAL PROGRAM ABOUT .
"KANDAGA-WA & MARUMIE'S PASSIONATE ROMANCE-NEWS SCOOP!"
Yaaay!
WHAT?!
STEP

GRIN
HUH?
PRESIDENT?!
OF COURSE!
OUR TWO OFFICES COLLABORATED TO BRING THIS PLAN TOGETHER.
TO MAKE SURE
WE GOT SOMETHING ON TV BEFORE IT WAS LEAKED TO THE MEDIA.

PRESIDENT...
...
HMPH
BUT DON'T THINK I'LL GO EASY ON YOU
ONCE YOU GET BACK.
HUH?
ONCE I GET BACK?

HERE ARE YOUR PASSPORT AND TICKET.
YOU'RE THE FIRST FLIGHT OUT TOMORROW MORNING.
MANAGER?
HERE YOU GO, MIE.
Grin
WAIT,
ARE YOU TELLING ME...?
YEP! YOU'RE ON THE SAME FLIGHT AS MIE! ♡
WE NEED TO GET THIS SPECIAL EDITED RIGHT AWAY AND ON THE BROADCAST SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
AND SHUUJI-KUN WILL BE BRINGING YOUR LUGGAGE TO THE AIRPORT.
MAKE SURE TO COME BACK AFTER YOUR FOUR DAYS ARE UP!
Shocked

Whimper...
Squeeze
ARE YOU JOKING?
IF WE DO THAT IT'LL BE A MESS WHEN WE GET BACK
SO IN THE MEAN-TIME,
WE WANT YOU TWO OUT OF JAPAN.♡
Cry!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, EVRYONE!!!
I'M SO HAPPY!

I'LL DEFINITELY TRY TO MAKE
MY SPECIAL KANDAGAWA-SAN HAPPY, AS WELL!
Crying

So!
Today, we have a special surprise for you all!
News about our Kandagawa and Marumie's...
Two days later
Heh
CELLPHONE BROADCAST
WOW...
Way to go...
Secret Romance
CONGRATULATIONS.
MIE-CHAN!!

LEAVING FOR THEIR TRIP
THEY COULD HAVE AT LEAST LET US CHANGE
WHOA!
NO WAY!
WHAT?
RE-ALLY?
Even though the relationship between me and Kandagawa-san will probably continue to be as strange as always,
WE'RE OFF!
for now, when we get back to Japan, I'll be sure to work my hardest
Thanks so much, everyone!♡

<Vol.16 The Best Man> *The End*

Ai wo Chodai! { Vol. 04 Last chapter

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Page designed by Sky

Thanks

We'd like to thank the following people for working on Ai wo Chodai Animus Ayaki JessRainbows AoreX oXo_ Kuri, Mini-marshmallo Sara, SmileOfJoy Mister Want Miller, Iteza Smoosh, Move easy, Zain, Zephyr Icewing Catriona, and Ariel In addition, we'd like to give a very special "thank you" to Solsi for providing us with the raws and of course to you the reader whose sake we are working so hard for

I was really happy when Xye our lovely admin and founder of Transcendence decided to pick this manga up and allowed me to be in charge of it When I first read Ai wo Chodai I "fell in love with it at first sight" I hadn't read a manga that made me laugh that much in a really long time! Whenever I was cleaning or typesetting chapters there were always times when I had to stop because I was laughing uncontrollably For me, Marumie was a very unique character that I'll remember for a very long time Marumie's "guys" were also interesting but I wish the others had been given more development besides just Kandagawa and that the manga would have lasted longer There are always things to wish for but I hope you enjoyed reading Ai wo Chodai as much as we did working on it

Iteza

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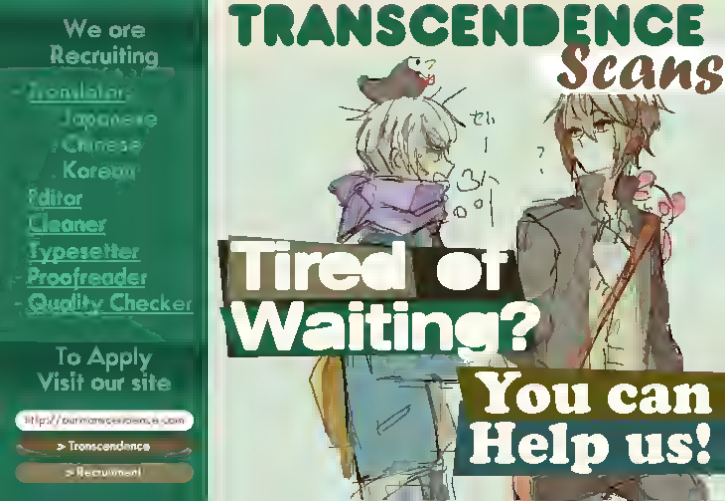
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